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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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At G20, Modi proposes 4 new initiatives

These include a global anti drug-terror mechanism and a healthcare team

JOHANNESBURG, 22 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged a fundamental rethink of global development frameworks and unveiled four major initiatives at the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting.

His proposals included a new G20 mechanism to counter the drug–terror nexus, a global healthcare response team, a skills partnership with Africa, and a traditional knowledge repository.

Speaking at the session on Inclusive and sustainable economic growth leaving no one behind, Modi said prevailing development models had left vast populations deprived of resources while accelerating environmental degradation – challenges felt sharply in Africa, the first-time host of a G20 Leaders' Summit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa **PHOTO: PTI**

He proposed creating a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository under the G20. Drawing from India's Indian Knowledge Systems initiative, the platform would document time-tested sustainable practices for future generations.

A second proposal, the G20–Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, would adopt a train-the-trainers model across key sectors. Supported by all G20 partners, it aims to produce one million certified trainers in Africa over the next decade, enabling the skilling of millions of young people.

Raising alarm over the proliferation of lethal synthetic drugs like fentanyl, Modi outlined a G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug–Terror Nexus. The mechanism would integrate financial, governance and security tools to disrupt trafficking routes, choke illicit financial flows and weaken a key funding stream for global terrorism. The prime miniter also called for establishing a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team comprising trained medical specialists from member countries, capable of rapid deployment during health emergencies or natural disasters. Collective readiness, he said, was essential for global resilience. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed Modi with a traditional 'namaste'. *—PTI*

G20 declaration adopted despite US opposition

JOHANNESBURG, 22 NOV

The G-20 has declared that all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state.

The need for inclusive growth through solidarity, equality and sustainability is key in the era of rising geopolitical and geo-economic competition.

The declaration echoes the United Nations principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, in a clear reference to Russia, Israel and Myanmar, without naming them, the declaration said that in line with the UN Charter, "all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territoarial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state..." Generally, the adoption of the declaration happens at the end of the Leaders' Summit. This time it happened at the start of the meeting.

The declaration has been adopted with consensus by the heads of state attending the G20 Leaders' Summit, despite US attempts to stop it. Asked about the US's stance on not participating and trying to stop the declaration in its absence, Ronald O. Lamola, South Africa's chief diplomat, said that the G20 would continue with or without the US.

The declaration reaffirmed multilateral cooperation as essential to addressing shared challenges. It noted that high debt burdens are constraining development in many economies. Energy security was underscored as fundamental to national sovereignty. *—PTI*

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PM UNVEILS AUS–CANADA–INDIA TECH PACT

A new trilateral technology and innovation partnership between India, Australia and Canada was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday after a meeting with his Australian and Canadian counterparts on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit here. "We are delighted to announce an Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership today," Modi said. According to a joint statement by India, Australia and Canada, the three sides agreed to "strengthen their ambition in cooperation on critical and emerging technologies to complement existing bilateral initiatives". The initiative will draw on the natural strengths of the three countries. *—PTI*

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CM writes to PM over maize, green gram price crash

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Pointing to the crash of procurement price of maize and green gram in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct national agencies like NAFED, FCI and NCCF to purchase these grains at MSP to protect the interests of farmers. Responding to Siddaramaiah's letter written on Friday, Union minister for Food and Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, questioned CM on why his government did not direct distilleries in the state to purchase maize at the support price fixed by the Centre. *—PTI*

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After drubbing, JSP dissolves all organisational units

PATNA, 22 NOV

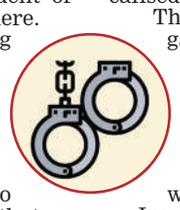
The Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraaj Party on Saturday dissolved all its organisational units, from the panchayat level to the state level, following the humiliating performance in the recently concluded Bihar polls. In a statement, party spokesperson Syed Masih Uddin said new units will be formed in the next one and a half months. The decision was taken at the party's national council meeting in Patna, chaired by state president Manoj Bharti, it said. Kishor was also present in the meeting, along with party leaders like former vice chief of the army SK Singh, ex-Union minister Ramchandra Prasad Singh and senior advocate YV Giri. The Jan Suraaj Party failed to open its account in the assembly polls, with most of its candidates losing their deposits. *—PTI*

J&K man held in 'white collar' terror case

SRINAGAR, 22 NOV

The J&K police arrested a man here on Saturday in connection with the 'white collar' terror module case, officials said.

The arrested person, Tufail Niyaz Bhat, is a resident of the Batamaloo area here. He was arrested during the investigation into the 'white collar' terror module case.



The module was busted after the Srinagar Police began an investigation into the pasting of posters that threatened the police and security forces on the walls in Bunpora in mid-October.

Senior Superintendent of Police Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy led the investigation. CCTV footage analysis led to the arrest of the first three suspects, Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid.

Their interrogation led to the arrest of Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic turned Imam, who allegedly supplied the posters and radicalised the doctors.

The trail led the investigators to Al Falah University in Faridabad, where Dr Muzzafar Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed were arrested, and 2,900 kg of explosives were seized.

Investigators believe a core trio of doctors, Dr Ganaie, Umar Nabi (the driver of the explosives-laden car that exploded near the Red Fort on 10 November), and Muzzaffar Rather (absconding), were running the module. *—PTI*

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Delhi cops bust ISI-linked drone arms supply chain

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

An arms trafficking network allegedly linked to ISI-backed suppliers has been busted with the arrest of four people involved in supplying high-end foreign weapons to organised crime groups across north India, Delhi police said on Saturday.

The network sourced foreign weapons smuggled from Pakistan using drones and supplied them to gangsters in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Traffickers dropped consignments using drones at premarked GPS locations along the border in Punjab late at night.

Local receivers retrieved the packages and supplied them to crime networks across India. Payments were made through hawala and proxy accounts.

Ten pistols, including Turkish-made PX-5.7 models used only by special forces, along with 92 live cartridges, were seized.

The arrested suspects are Mandeep Singh, 38, and Dalvinder Kumar, 34, both from Punjab, and Rohan Tomar, 30, and Ajay alias Monu, 37, residents of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. *—PTI*

HUNT ON FOR OTHERS

Cop, 2 others arrested for ₹7 cr heist in B'luru

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh displays Rs 5.76 crore, which were recovered on Saturday in Bengaluru **PHOTO: SALAR**

Three people, including a police constable, have been arrested in connection with the Rs 7.11-crore robbery in the city. A gang disguised as RBI officials made off with the cash, triggering a search involving more than 220 personnel, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Over 30 people were questioned, three suspects were arrested- constable Annappa Naik, former CMS Infosystems employee Xavier, and vehicle-in-charge Gopi were arrested. The gang is believed to comprise six to eight members involved in planning, execution and the movement of the stolen cash.

According to police, the robbery had been planned for about three months. The gang surveyed the cash van's route and identified a stretch without CCTV coverage. On 19 November, the suspects arrived in a car bearing a Government of India sticker and intercepted a CMS Info Systems ATM cash van that was transporting money from a private bank in JP Nagar. Posing as RBI officials, they claimed they needed to verify documents, forced the staff into their vehicle along with the cash, and later dropped them near Dairy Circle before fleeing.

Six police teams were dispatched across southern states and Goa to track the culprits. Singh said the accused were identified and detained within 54 hours, aided by specific intelligence inputs. Within 60 hours, officers recovered Rs 5.76 crore and seized one of the vehicles used in the crime.

A search is underway to locate the remaining members of the gang and recover the rest of the stolen amount, Singh added. *—PTI*

Dealing with pendency will be my priority: Next CJI

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

CJI-designate Justice Surya Kant on Saturday said his foremost priorities will be tackling India's pendency of over five crore cases and advancing mediation as a "game changer" in dispute resolution. Justice Kant, who takes oath on November 24 as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, noted that Supreme Court arrears have crossed 90,000 and said he will seek detailed pendency reports from all high courts and trial courts.

He emphasised that mediation is gaining national attention, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks. He recalled disposing of 1,200 Delhi land-acquisition matters through a single judgments. Justice Kant will serve a 15-month tenure as CJI until his retirement on 9 February 2027. *—PTI*

Nuclear bill, 10 others planned for Parl session

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The government has listed 10 new Bills for introduction in the winter session of Parliament from 1 December, including a landmark proposal to open the civil nuclear sector to private players. The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025 aims to modernise the regulation and use of atomic energy in India.

Another major proposal is the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill, which will create a single regulator for higher education, replacing the UGC, AICTE and NCTE. The HECI will oversee regulation, accreditation and professional standards, but funding will stay with the ministry.

Several economic and infrastructure reforms are also on the agenda. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill seeks faster, more transparent land acquisition processes, while the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 proposes changes to the Companies Act, 2013 and LLP Act, 2008 to improve ease of doing business. The Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025 aims to merge SEBI Act, Depositories Act and the Securities Contracts Regulation Act into a unified code.

Chandigarh under Prez?

The Centre will also introduce The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 to bring Chandigarh under Article 240, empowering the President to legislate directly for the Union territory. The move has triggered political concerns in Punjab, which has long asserted its claim over Chandigarh.

Amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act are also planned. *—PTI*

21 SC, BC judges appointed under outgoing CJI Gavai

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Ten judges from Scheduled Castes and eleven from Other Backward and Backward Classes were appointed to various high courts during Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's nearly six-month tenure. Justice Gavai, the country's first Buddhist and second Dalit CJI, led the Supreme Court collegium, recommending 129 names, of which 93 were approved. The 52nd CJI delivered significant rulings, including staying key provisions of the Waqf law, and permitting the Centre to grant post-facto green clearances. Friday was his last working day. *—PTI*

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BEATEN ON TRAIN

No arrest yet after teen dies by suicide over 'Marathi assault'

THANE, 22 NOV

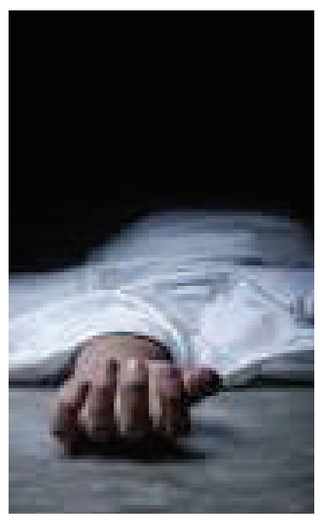
Nearly five days after a 19-year-old Kalyan student died by suicide following an alleged assault for not speaking Marathi in a crowded local train, police have made no arrests.

Arnav Khaire, a first-year BSc student from Kalyan studying in Mulund, took the extreme step on Tuesday evening. Earlier that day, he was reportedly assaulted by four to five commuters after he spoke in Hindi while requesting passengers to make way, "andar chalo, andar chalo", as he navigated the rush. His father said Arnav routinely travelled by first class but used the second-class compartment as his season pass had expired.

According to the family, the group questioned why he, a Maharashtrian himself, was not speaking Marathi. They allegedly shouted at him, asking if he was ashamed to speak the language. The argument escalated into a physical assault. Arnav returned home and later died by suicide.

Kolsewadi Police have registered an Accidental Death Report and are investigating whether the suicide was linked to the alleged bullying. Deputy Commissioner of Police said nothing can be confirmed until verification is complete. *—Agencies*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, or SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support.



UP govt to identify infiltrators, detain them in centres

LUCKNOW, 22 NOV

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued instructions to all district magistrates to take strong action against illegal immigrants, an official statement said Saturday.

"The CM directed that all district administrations must ensure the identification of illegal immigrants in their area and take action," the statement read. Temporary detention centres will also be set upw where they will be held.

Uttar Pradesh shares an open border with Nepal, allowing free movement of citizens of both countries, but there are checks on people from other countries. *—PTI*

Kolar brass troupe to enter South Zone competition

KOLAR, 22 NOV

The brass band troupe of RV School in Kolar has earned a place in the South India Brass Band Competition after winning first prize at the State-level contest held in Belagavi on the 20th and 21st of this month. A total of 25 teams from across Karnataka participated in the event, where the RV School band, led by Tejas G Gowda, secured the top position and qualified for the South Zone competition. Trained by Selvamani and supported by team manager Ashwaq, the troupe displayed a wide range of musical skills, performing several band pieces and songs that helped them outperform the other school teams. *—Salar News*

Mysuru RPF to conduct shooting practice on 25 Nov

MYSURU, 22 NOV

The Railway Protection Force (RPF), Mysuru Division of South Western Railway, will conduct its 2nd Phase Annual Range Classification Target Practice on 25 November, between 6 am and 3 pm., at the Dodda Byadarahalli Firing Range in Mandya district. Residents of neighbouring villages are advised to avoid the movement of people and livestock in and around the firing range during these hours. This measure is necessary to ensure public safety and to prevent any untoward incidents during the live-fire exercise. *—Salar News*

GP secretary attempts suicide over transfer

MYSURU, 22 NOV

A Gram Panchayat secretary allegedly attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills at the Varuna Gram Panchayat office in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's home constituency. According to police, Divya, the secretary of the panchayat, consumed the tablets at her workplace two days ago. Staff members immediately rushed her to a private hospital after finding her unconscious. She is currently recovering. Police said Divya was reportedly upset over a transfer issue. Additional Superintendent of Police C Mallik told Salar that officers have not yet recorded her statement. Varuna Police visited the hospital on Saturday but could not speak to her as she was not in a condition to give a statement. A case will be registered once a formal complaint is received. *—Salar News*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support.

Kerala-based pawn broker robbed in Gundlupet

MYSURU, 22 NOV

A Kerala-based pawnbroker was robbed of 1,200 grams of gold ornaments while travelling near the Moolehole check post en route to Kerala, within the Bandipur tiger reserve in Gundlupet, Chamarajanagar district. The incident occurred on 21 November at approximately 6pm, but the jeweller, identified as Vinu, only reported it to the Gundlupet Police Station two days later on Saturday.

According to police reports, Vinu, son of Krishan, was transporting the gold for jewellery making, having received orders from Mandya's Rajesh Jewellers. While travelling with his driver, Sameer, they were ambushed by a gang of 10 to 12 robbers who arrived in two vehicles. After stopping their car on the roadside, the assailants seized the jewellery and fled the scene.

Gundlupet police have registered a case, and Superintendent of Police BT Kavitha has inspected the location. Kavitha stated, "We have collected certain records of jewellery orders and other documents *—Salar News*

CM writes to PM as maize, moong rates crash

Siddaramaiah says prices have fallen below MSP in State

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Pointing to the crash of procurement price of maize and green gram in the State, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct national agencies like NAFED, FCI and NCCF to purchase these grains at MSP to protect the interests of farmers.

In a letter to Modi, the Siddaramaiah said, "I write to you with deep concern and a sense of urgency regarding the severe price crash in maize and green gram (Moong), crops that sustain the livelihoods of lakhs of farmers in the state. The market prices have fallen far below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government of India, creating widespread distress among cultivators."

Siddaramaiah said the State has cultivated maize in over 17.94 lakh hectares and green gram in over 4.16 lakh hectares this Kharif season, and the State is tentatively expecting a production of more than 54.74 lakh metric tonnes of Maize and 1.983 lakh metric tonnes of Green Gram.

Though this should have been an opportunity for prosperity, the current market conditions have turned it into a crisis, he noted.

He pointed out that while the Centre fixed MSP at Rs 2,400 per MT for maize and Rs 28,768 per MT for green gram, the prevailing prices in Karnataka have dropped to Rs 1,600 to Rs 1,800 per MT for maize and around Rs 5,400 per MT for green gram.

CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar *PHOTO: SALAR*

Even the modal prices of the last three years were higher than MSP, but external pressures and supply-demand distortions have pushed prices to record lows, he said.

According to CM, Karnataka has a marketable surplus of 32 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of maize, far exceeding the absorptive capacity of local industries. Siddaramaiah urged Modi to direct NAFED, FCI and NCCF to begin MSP procurement immediately under the Price Support Scheme or another suitable mechanism.

He also sought measures to ensure Karnataka's farmers benefit fairly from the ethanol supply chain, pointing out that the basic rate for maize-based ethanol is Rs 266.07 per litre with an added incentive of Rs 5.79 per litre.

The CM alleged that many ethanol plants are sourcing maize from middlemen instead of farmers.

In response, Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, asked the CM why his government did not direct distilleries in the State to purchase maize at the support price fixed by the Centre.The power to enforce local procurement norms rests with the State, Joshi said.

He also called that the claim of 70 LMT maize imports by the Centre a "lie". *—PTI*

CM'S 5 REQUESTS

- Direct NAFED, FCI and NCCF to begin MSP procurement immediately
- Ensure fair participation for State farmers in ethanol supply chain
- Increase Karnataka's ethanol allocation
- Relaxation in quality norms for the buying green gram
- Stop import of maize from countries like Ukraine & Myanmar

Turbulence is incoming for Cong: HDK

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy predicted an "imminent and explosive political developments" in the State, saying that will be a period of "turbulence" for the state's ruling establishment.

Speaking at the JD(S) Silver Jubilee celebrations in the City on Saturday, Kumaraswamy attacked the Congress government.

"It is impossible to say who will take what decisions. Unexpected and explosive developments will occur," he said. He suggested that the Congress government was in "internal turmoil", warning of a "political revolution" within months.

Criticising the State government over rising prices and taxes, he appealed to citizens for a mandate to prove JD(S).

Kumaraswamy claimed the State debt had crossed Rs 7.5 lakh crore, alleging that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alone had added Rs 5–5.5 lakh crore.

JD(S) supremo HD Devegowda with Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy and others during the silver jubilee celebration of the JD(S) party, in Bengaluru on Saturday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

DKS SNAPS AT SCRIBE FOR LYING ABOUT HDK

DyCM DK Shivakumar snapped at a reporter who claimed that Kumaraswamy said the Bengaluru Minister sought time from Union Home Minister Amit Shah because the State government was collapsing. Shivakumar initially threatened to file a defamation case against Kumaraswamy, before his team learned the JD(S) leader hadn't said anything like that. *—PTI*

CM, DyCM are horse trading MLAs: Pralhad

HUBBALLI, 22 NOV

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday claimed that "horse trading" of Congress MLAs is underway in the State amid the alleged power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

He also claimed Shivakumar's visit to jailed MLAs Vinay Kulkarni and KC Veerendra, also known as Puppy, in Bengaluru Central Prison was aimed at securing their support.

"There is infighting in Congress. Siddaramaiah does not want to leave the CM's position, and Shivakumar does not want Siddaramaiah to continue as CM," Joshi said in Hubballi. "Because of such a situation, both the camps are trying to purchase MLAs. You might have seen that Shivakumar has gone to jail to meet the MLAs to seek their support and pay whatever their price is."

The administration "has collapsed due to the ongoing power tussle," he said. "The State is witnessing misadministration as there is no one to address issues arising from excess rains and poor road infrastructure," he claimed.

Separately, BJP MLC H Vishwanath said that development works in the State were at a standstill because of infighting.

Similarly, State BJP President BY Vijayendra noted that, "Claims about 'October revolution' and 'November revolution' were made by Congress ministers and MLAs... (But) we are not interested in the developments within the Congress party."

Accusing Siddaramaiah of being an "utter failure", he said, "the CM is claiming big achievements in the last two-and-a-half years. What achievement did they make when the administration has collapsed and there was no development activity?" *—Salar news with agencies*

High Command will address power tussle in 2 days: MLA Sait

MYSURU, 22 NOV

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Working President (KPCC) and MLA Tanveer Sait announced on Saturday that the party's high command will resolve the ongoing power-sharing issue within two days.

Sait expressed disappointment that the High Command had not clarified its position on this matter earlier, particularly after two and a half years of governance in the State. "If High Command leaders had clarified their stance earlier, it wouldn't have dragged on," he remarked.

Sait dismissed rumours about a seat-sharing agreement, saying MLAs were not consulted. "Nobody knows who has given promises to whom," he added.

He acknowledged that the delay reached a critical stage but was optimistic, stating, "The High Command will clarify the issue soon and announce its decisions, including a potential cabinet reshuffle." He dismissed concerns that these internal matters would damage the party's image. *—Salar News*

- Sait expressed disappointment that the High Command had not clarified its position on this matter earlier, particularly after two and a half years of governance.

Contact SIT over encroached forest land: State to Forest Dept

KOLAR, 22 NOV

Kolar district in-charge Minister Byrathi Suresh has asked the forest department authorities in Kolar district to practice utmost restraint while reclaiming the encroached forest lands from farmers and urged officials to go through the SIT formed for the purpose. s

Speaking at the KDP review meeting on Friday, the Minister said many farmers have approached the State Government alleging that Forest Department authorities are destroying their crops grown on the lands before reclaiming the same.

Kolar district in-charge Minister Byrathi Suresh and others during a KDP meeting *PHOTO: SALAR*

The farmers have alleged that the forest authorities have not heard their views before taking over the lands. Hence, the government directed the forest authorities to make a formal proposal to the State through the SIT formed exclusively for the purpose.

He said the forest authorities, instead of taking unilateral decisions on freeing the lands, should make proper recommendations to the State government through the district level SIT committee with documents. *—Salar News*

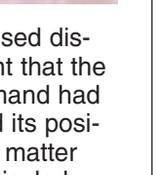
5 HELD IN 9-YR-OLD MURDER CASE IN KALABURAGI

KALABURAGI, 22 NOV

The Farhatabad police have arrested five accused in connection with the murder a man in Kadani village in Kalaburagi that has been registered nine years after his death.

The accused have been identified as Mahesh Rathod, Suresh alias Kantu Rathod, Siddu Bagalkot, Shankar Bichagatti, and Shantabai, the wife of the victim Beerappa Poojari

They have been remanded to judicial custody and will soon be taken into police custody for further questioning, City police commissioner Sharanappa SD said.



Shantabai allegedly having an illicit relationship with another man, to which Beerappa had opposed. Hence, the accused gave him alcohol to consume and later murdered him by strangling him to death in 2016. They had even attempted to kill him by giving him pills.

Beerappa was believed to have died a natural death. However, an audio recording of a conversation involving the hired killer began circulating, which made the victim's brother suspicious and lodged a complaint. Investigation is underway accordingly.

The police are collecting circumstantial and technical evidence, digital records and scientific proof are being collected. Exhuming the body is also being considered as part of the probe. *—Salar News*

UNDER HEALTH DEPT

Cosmetic spas are now 'medical establishments' for regulations

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

The Health and Family Welfare Department brought spas, salons and cosmetic centres offering clinical-grade procedures under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, 2007 to regulate and monitor their practices.

Sharing the government notification on X on Saturday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "All medical spas that provide cosmetic treatments and related services have now been officially declared 'medical establishments' and brought under the direct regulatory control of the Health Department."

He asserted that the decision was to monitor and regulate the quality of cosmetic procedures such as botox, laser treatments, liposuction, hair transplantation, IV hydration therapy, and all other body-related cosmetic treatments.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

He said the move would regulate unauthorised cosmetic skin clinics, Korean skin care centres, massage centres, and spas that are currently practising medicine illegally.

"This order will put a strong check on medical quackery," he said.

Doctors with medical degrees in Allopathy, Ayurveda, or other systems who were running cosmetic clinics will now be regulated.

Other professions included in the order were: audiology, speech therapy, dieticians/ nutritionists, clinical psychology / physical psychology, osteopathy, podiatry, radiation therapy or X-ray radiography and medical imaging, respiratory therapy, dental sonography, and occupational therapy and its allied health systems. *—Salar News*

Man killed by brother in City, three arrested

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

Dhanraj, 24, was allegedly killed in a car by his elder brother and two friends. The victim's body was found dumped along the Bannerghatta-Kaggalipura road on the outskirts of the City.

The victim hailed from Aland taluk in Kalaburagi district, where he lived with his parents. The accused- his brother Shivaraj, 28, and friends Sandeep, 24 and Prashant, 26 have been arrested.

According to police, Dhanraj was involved in thefts and frequently assaulted his parents after coming home drunk. He often created a ruckus and had earlier attacked Shivaraj when confronted about his behaviour.

Shivaraj, a cab driver living in HSR Layout, allegedly decided to eliminate him and conspired with his friends, both from Aland. On 2 November, Shivraj called the victim, claiming to have arranged a job. After picking him up near the Bannerghatta NICE Road junction,

The three accused were arrested based on CCTV evidence *PHOTO: X*

The trio allegedly restrained his hands and struck him on the neck with a machete, killing him on the spot. Dumping the body in roadside bushes, the car mat and machete. The decomposed body was found on 6 November. *—PTI*

Manipur forces arrest 5, including 4 militants

IMPHAL, 22 NOV

Security forces in Manipur have arrested four militants from banned outfits for alleged extortion, police said. Three active members of the proscribed People's Liberation Army were detained on Thursday in Imphal West, where a pistol, ammunition and outfit-related documents were recovered. Another militant from the banned Prepak group was arrested the same day in Imphal East for allegedly demanding money from residents. In a separate operation on Friday, a man in Thoubal district was held after an SLR rifle with 12 rounds and two radio sets were found at his home. Search operations continue across Manipur amid ongoing ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups, which has claimed over 260 lives since May 2023. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

4 injured as Ajit Pawar's convoy vehicle hits bike

BEED, 22 NOV

A couple and their two young daughters were injured on Saturday when a fire brigade vehicle in Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's convoy crashed into their motorcycle in Beed district, police said. The collision took place around 11.30am on the Telgaon–Dharur Road as Pawar was travelling from Parbhani to Dharur. Vishnu Sude, his wife Kusum, and their daughters, aged three and seven, sustained injuries in the impact, according to Dharur police. The family was first taken to Dharur Rural Hospital and later shifted to Swami Ramanand Teerth Rural Government Medical College and Hospital in Ambejogai for further treatment. The crash caused brief traffic congestion, and police have seized the vehicles involved. —*PTI*

ED says ex-MLA Anvar linked to major loan misuse

MALAPPURAM, 22 NOV

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has uncovered major financial irregularities linked to former Kerala MLA PV Anvar while probing alleged loan misappropriation from the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC). Raids were conducted on his homes and businesses in Malappuram. The ED is examining a Rs 7.5-crore loan given to Malamkulam Constructions in 2015, followed by two further loans using the same collateral, resulting in NPAs of about Rs 22.3 crore. Investigators identified 15 benami accounts and evidence of diverted funds, benami assets and improper use of loan proceeds. Anvar admitted to owning Malamkulam Constructions. —*PTI*

Cong divided over MNS alliance, BJP eyes 'opportunity'

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

The Congress party in Maharashtra is facing internal divisions regarding a potential alliance with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) for the forthcoming local body elections. Senior Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar has expressed support for a united front, including the MNS, stressing the necessity of Opposition unity to counter the BJP. Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad asserted that the local unit is steadfast in its decision not to join forces with the MNS, condemning their history of violence. Senior BJP leader Chandrashekhar Bawankule accused Congress of opportunism, noting their previous opposition to alliances with the MNS due to its aggressive stance against Hindi speakers. Congress slammed MNS comments, likening its resilience to that of an amoeba. —*PTI*

G20: PM unveils Aus–Canada–India tech pact

Modi also held bilateral meetings with world leaders on G20 sidelines in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, 22 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the launch of the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership after meeting his Australian and Canadian counterparts on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

Modi said the initiative would strengthen collaboration among "democratic partners across three continents and three oceans" in emerging technologies, supply-chain diversification, clean energy and the mass adoption of AI. Beyond diplomatic signalling, the move reflects a strategic attempt to reshape supply chains, govern AI and accelerate leadership in low-carbon industries — potentially marking a turning point in democratic tech coordination.

The partnership formalises a trilateral technology axis spanning the Indo-Pacific and North America. By aligning Australia's critical minerals and research strengths, Canada's clean-tech and advanced-materials capabilities, and India's manufacturing scale and deep AI talent pool, ACITI aims to build secure and resilient technology ecosystems. The announcement explicitly highlighted democratic alignment, clean energy and AI deployment.

One immediate advantage could be the diversification of clean-energy and battery supply chains. With Australia as a major critical-minerals supplier, Canada offering processing and metallurgy expertise, and India providing large-scale manufacturing capacity, a coordinated approach could reduce dependence on concentrated chokepoints and accelerate the commercial rollout of green technologies.

All three countries also face active policy debates on AI governance. A focused trilateral working group could shape shared guardrails, standards, interoperability rules, certification regimes and talent-exchange mechanisms, influencing wider global norms. Joint investments in safe, trustworthy AI, & alignment on privacy, data flows and dual-use export controls, could significantly amplify their multilateral influence.

Analysts also view the partnership as signalling Canada's renewed Indo-Pacific engagement, potentially gaining momentum under PM Mark Carney.

During the Summit, Modi held bilateral meetings with several leaders, including France's Emmanuel Macron, Singapore's Lawrence Wong, Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim, Angola's João Lourenço and South Korea's Lee Jae-myung. —*PTI*

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer stand as leaders pose for a group photo, on the opening day of the G20 Leaders' Summit, in Johannesburg, on Saturday; Modi being welcomed by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa upon his arrival in South Africa **PHOTO: PTI**

Modi meets UK PM Starmer, UN Secy Guterres

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met his British counterpart Keir Starmer and UN Secretary-General António Guterres here. Modi met Starmer and Guterres on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by South Africa. "It was wonderful meeting Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Johannesburg. This year has brought new energy to the India–UK partnership and we will keep driving it forward across many domains," Modi said in a post on X. He said he had a "very productive" conversation with Guterres. —*PTI*

'34 people dead in West Bengal over SIR stress'

KOLKATA, 22 NOV

A total of 34 people have died in connection to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal so far, with Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo **Mamata Banerjee** saying this has become "truly alarming now".

A woman working as a booth level officer (BLO) in West Bengal's Nadia district was found hanging at her residence on Saturday morning, with her family members claiming that she was under considerable SIR work-related stress.

BLO Rinku Tarafdar, 52, blamed the Election Commission of India (ECI) in her suicide note.

Tarafdar, a para-teacher at Vivekananda Vidyamandir, served for booth number 201 in Chapra-2 Panchayat

The police are probing the matter.

The West Bengal Chief Minister had written a strongly worded letter to CEC Gyanesh Kumar, demanding halting of the SIR exercise that she claimed was "chaotic, coercive and dangerous".

Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha rubbished Banerjee's claims regarding the death.

The Chief Electoral Officer's office has sought an immediate report from senior officials of Nadia regarding the death.

Meanwhile, two teachers-cum-BLOs tasked with conducting voter list survey for SIR died of "illness" in Raisen and Damoh districts of Madhya Pradesh on 21 November.

Relatives and friends of the deceased, Ramakant Pandey and Sitaram Gond, blamed heavy workload and pressure to meet enumeration targets as the reasons for the deaths.

While a BLO went missing in Raisen district, two more died in Damoh district.

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer Ratan U Kelkar said that BLOs are being provided all possible assistance and there is "no intention to pressurise them." —*PTI*

The BJP government and the Election Commission are preparing to delete over 50,000 voters in each Assembly constituency won by the SP or the INDIA bloc, using SIR as a pretext. This is happening in Uttar Pradesh and in West Bengal. We are alert.

-Akhilesh Yadav, SP Chief

ENDS TVK ALLIANCE CLAIMS

Cong forms panel for seat-sharing talks with DMK

CHENNAI, 22 NOV

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has constituted a 5-member committee to hold seat-sharing parleys with DMK for the 2026 Assembly election, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President **K Selvaperunthagai** said on Saturday.

The Congress team tasked to hold talks with the ruling DMK will be led by party in-charge for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Girish Chodankar, the TNCC top leader said. Selvaperunthagai and legislature party leader S Rajeshkumar will be part of the panel.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram welcomed the party brass appointing the committee and said this would strengthen the INDIA bloc's unity.

Chidambaram's statement assumes significance as claims had been made on and off that the Congress party may dump the DMK and join hands with the actor-politician Vijay-led Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to face the 2026 Assembly polls.

Apparently, Chidambaram has rejected such conjectures over his party joining hands with TVK. —*PTI*

Stalin writes to PM on resentment over metro rejection

CHENNAI, 22 NOV

Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed deep disappointment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the Centre's rejection of Metro Rail proposals for Coimbatore and Madurai, highlighting that it has sparked public resentment.

In his correspondence, he noted that Tamil Nadu is the most urbanised state in the nation, with a high per capita ownership of private vehicles, making high-capacity public transport crucial.

Stalin emphasised that the detailed project reports (DPRs) submitted for both cities were rejected by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) despite their merits.

He urged Modi to instruct MoHUA to reconsider its decision, pointing out that the population criterion of two million has been selectively applied to Tamil Nadu's proposals. —*PTI*

This is democracy: Tharoor on Don-Mamdani meet

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Congress leader **Shashi Tharoor** on Saturday lauded the cordial meeting between US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, saying this is how democracy should work and hoped to see this happen in India.

Tharoor reposted on X a video of the meeting between Trump and Mamdani.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla was all praise of Tharoor for his remarks and hoped Rahul Gandhi would get the message.

After months of vitriolic attacks against each other during the New York City mayoral election, Trump and Mamdani adopted a mutually warm tone during their first meeting at the White House in Washington DC, with the US president terming it "very productive".

Trump also expressed confidence that Mamdani "can do a very good job".

When asked if he would feel comfortable living in New York City under a Mamdani administration, Trump responded emphatically. "Yeah, I would, especially after the meeting. Absolutely".

Mamdani described the meeting as a "productive", one focused on New York, a place of shared admiration and love. —*PTI*

Lobbying intensifies for Bihar Speaker post

PATNA, 22 NOV

A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar allocated the portfolios among the state ministers, lobbying has intensified for the post of Speaker in the assembly.

BJP MLA **Prem Kumar**, who has been elected for the ninth consecutive term from the Gaya Town assembly seat, is considered the frontrunner for the Speaker's post.The name of Jhajha MLA Damodar Rawat of the JD(U) was also doing the rounds.

A special session of the assembly will soon be convened so that all 243 elected members can take the oath and elect a Speaker, the sources said.

Prem Kumar was the cooperative minister in the previous government In the outgoing assembly, BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav served as the Speaker, while JD(U)'s Narendra Narayan Yadav held the position of the Deputy Speaker.

Some leaders of JD(U) believe since BJP's Awadhesh Narain Singh holds the position of chairman of the state legislative council, the Speaker should go to the party. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhury said the NDA government will focus on 'Sushasan' in Bihar. —*PTI*

Appointing Samrat Chaudhary as Home Minister is their internal decision and may have been made as part of a compromise. We believe that he (Nitish Kumar) may be ousted in a few days

-Mata Prasad Pandey, LoP in UP Assembly

Man wanted in arms smuggling arrested

A man, wanted in several arms smuggling cases, has been arrested following a gunfight with police in Bihar's Begusarai district. The suspect, Shivdatt Rai, sustained a gunshot wound to his leg. A joint team from the Special Task Force (STF) and local police, acting on a tip-off, located Rai in the Sahebur Kamal area. Upon seeing the police, he opened fire but was ultimately subdued by officers. —*PTI*

DURING 6 MONTHS TENURE

CJI Gavai appointed 21 judges from SC & Backward Classes

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

10 judges from Scheduled Caste category, 11 from Other Backward Classes and Backward Classes were appointed to different high courts of the country during Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's tenure of around six months.

Justice Gavai, who is the country's first Buddhist and second Dalit CJI, headed the three-member collegium of the apex court which recommended 129 names to the government for appointment as judges of different high courts, out of which 93 names were cleared.

Five judges -- Justices NV Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi, AS Chandurkar, Alok Aradhe and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi -- were also appointed to the apex court during his tenure.

According to the details of appointment of judges uploaded on the apex court's website from 14 May onwards, when Justice Gavai became Chief Justice of India, 93 names cleared by the government for the high court included 13 judges from minority communities and 15 women judges.

CJI BR Gavai **PHOTO: PTI**

- Justice Gavai, who is the country's second Dalit CJI, headed the collegium, which recommended 129 names to the government for appointment as judges of different high courts.

Five of them are related to former or serving judges and 49 judges were appointed from the Bar while rest were from the service cadre.

CJI Gavai is set to demit office on Sunday, 23 November and his successor Justice Surya Kant will be sworn in as the next Chief Justice of India on 24 November.

Friday was the last working day of CJI Gavai, who was the second Dalit after KG Balakrishnan to head the Indian judiciary. —*PTI*

You have votes, I have funds: Pawar tells electors

PUNE, 22 NOV

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has sparked controversy following remarks made during a campaign event in Malegaon, where he linked financial support to voter choices. While campaigning for the upcoming elections to the Malegaon Nagar Panchayat, Pawar, who leads the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and holds the finance portfolio in the coalition government, stated, "I will ensure there is no shortage of funds if you elect all 18 NCP candidates. If you elect all 18 candidates, I am committed to give whatever I have promised. But if you reject, I will also reject. You have votes, I have funds."

His comments were met with criticism from opposition figures, with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve accusing Pawar of intimidating voters. He asserted, "Funds are given from the taxes paid by the common people and not from Ajit Pawar's house —*PTI*

New labour codes shift balance sharply: CPI(M)

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The CPI(M) on Saturday strongly opposed the implementation of the four labour codes, claiming these seek to dilute and abolish long-established rights and entitlements of workers, and shift the balance sharply in favour of employers.

These dismantle the hard-won rights of workers, which provided them some protection, it said in a statement.

"The CPI(M) Politbureau strongly opposes the unilateral notification of the four Labour Codes by the BJP-led Central government," the Left party said.

The party said the labour codes dismantle 29 hard-won labour laws that have, till now, protected the workers to some extent. The party also said the government's claim that the labour codes will boost employment and investment is completely baseless.

Additionally, Congress on Saturday said the Modi government must ensure a national minimum wage of Rs 400 a day, Rs 25 lakh universal health coverage and an employment guarantee act for Indian workers in urban areas to make 'Shramik Nyay' a reality under the new labour codes.

- The party said the labour codes dismantle 29 hard-won labour laws that have, till now, protected the workers to some extent.

A day after the Centre notified the four Labour Codes, Congress questioned their effectiveness in giving justice to workers and said it should learn from the Congress governments in Karnataka and Rajasthan.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the 29 existing labour-related laws have been re-packaged into the four Codes and are being marketed as some revolutionary reform when even the Rules are yet to be notified. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

SC panel bans darshan at Banke Bihari temple

MATHURA, 22 NOV

A Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee has prohibited the climbing of stairs and offering of darshan in the Jagmohan hall of the Banke Bihari temple due to non-compliance by priests. Jagmohan serves as the area for devotees to glimpse the deity, yet it has been traditionally restricted to priests. The committee, chaired by retired Allahabad High Court judge Ashok Kumar, made this decision after observing priests disregarding previous advice. Kumar noted, "Devotees were climbing stairs, even hanging children from railings, compromising safety and dignity." The order comes as the temple seeks better management of crowd, with strict compliance mandated to minimise risks to both devotees and the sanctity of the site.*—PTI*

Magh Mela 2026 in UP to host 12-15 crore pilgrims

PRAYAGRAJ, 22 NOV

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has projected that the upcoming Magh Mela will attract approximately 15 crore pilgrims over its duration. The event will cover an extensive 800-hectare area, with devotees taking the first holy dip on Paush Purnima on 3 January and the second dip on Makar Sankranti on 15 January. Adityanath expressed, "We aim to ensure the Magh Mela is conducted with full grandeur and divinity." Preparations include the establishment of 42 parking sites, sanitation provisions, and health facilities. To enhance security, 400 AI-enabled cameras will be deployed, complementing an extensive police presence. The Chief Minister assured improved facilities for the pilgrims compared to the previous year. *—PTI*

Delhi boy stabbed to death, minor among suspects

NEW DELHI 22 NOV

A 15-year-old boy was fatally stabbed by two individuals, including a minor, during an altercation in Jyoti Nagar in northeast Delhi early on Saturday. Police reported that the incident occurred in the Kardampuri area on 21 November, leading to the victim's death at the GBT Hospital. Initial investigations revealed that the youth had been involved in a dispute with two people, including a minor, with evidence linking them to the crime. A senior police officer stated, "We have found crucial clues regarding the suspects." A forensic team has processed the crime scene, and the police are continuing their inquiry to clarify the events that led to the fatal stabbing incident.*—PTI*

Railway acts against woman for cooking on train

MUMBAI, 22 NOV

The Central Railway has initiated efforts to identify a woman seen cooking noodles using an electric kettle in an express train's AC coach, raising the safety alarms. The viral video depicts the woman utilising a mobile charging socket for the kettle and claiming to have prepared tea for the fellow passengers. A Central Railway official noted, "Using an electric kettle inside trains is strictly prohibited and can cause fire hazards." The railway authority is addressing the issue by taking action against both the individual and the channel that shared the video. The passengers are urged to refrain from indulging in similar behaviours and report any safety threats onboard to the authorities.*—PTI*

Village mourns IAF pilot's death in Dubai jet crash

IAF institutes court of inquiry to probe the accident

BENGALURU, 22 NOV

The death of Wing Commander Naman Syal, who was killed in a Tejas aircraft crash during the Dubai Air Show 2025, has left his native village in deep mourning.

The pilot, hailing from Patiyalkar village in Tehsil Nagrota Bagwan in Himachal Pradesh's kangra district, is survived by his wife, also an Indian Air Force (IAF) officer, their six-year-old daughter and his parents.

Relatives and villagers gathered in his hometown upon hearing the news of the tragic incident.

Syal's uncle Joginder Nath Syal said, "We received information about the crash around 5.00pm, when his father called me. People of the village are very sad..."

Ramesh Kumar, another relative said, "Namansh Syal's parents are currently at the Sulur Air Force Station near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. His wife is in Kolkata for a course.

Villagers gather outside the home of Wing Commander Namansh Syal in Patiyalkar village in Kangra in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday *PHOTO: ANI*

The Wing Commander's father Jagannath Syal also served in the Indian Army's Medical Corps and later worked in the education department.

Kumar also said that the 34-year-old pilot was supposed to get a promotion. He was a squadron leader.

The IAF said in a statement that it deeply regretted Syal's death and stands firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief.

IAF also said that a court of inquiry was constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The plane went down while performing an aerial display before a large crowd, local media reported.

Khaleej Times reported that the fighter jet crashed into the ground soon after take-off. Photos and videos shared online show plumes of black smoke billowing into the air from the aircraft on the ground.

One eyewitness was quoted as saying, "As soon as the plane took off, it crashed. I am not sure which aircraft it was."

Helicopters and firefighters soon rushed to the scene and the show was temporarily halted. *—Agencies*

- Relatives said that the 34-year-old pilot was supposed to get a promotion. He was a squadron leader. The IAF said that it deeply regretted Syal's death and stands firmly with the bereaved family.

Stricter anti-pollution rules in Delhi amid air quality dip

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The Commission for Air Quality Management has tightened the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi-NCR, advancing several pollution-control measures to earlier stages to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region.

The revised schedule shifts multiple actions from higher alert stages to lower ones meaning restrictions will now be triggered sooner as the air quality index (AQI) worsens.

Several curbs that previously fell under Stage II ('Poor' AQI 201-300) will now be enforced at Stage I.

The city's overall AQI stood at 360 in the 'very poor' category on Saturday.

These include ensuring uninterrupted power supply to discourage the use of diesel generator sets, deploying additional personnel to streamline traffic at congestion-prone points, issuing pollution alerts through the media, and augmenting CNG and electric public transport fleets with higher service frequency and differential fares to promote off-peak travel.

The Centre may also decide on staggered timings for its offices and implement work-from-home provisions for its employees in the region.

All implementing agencies across NCR have been directed to enforce the revised schedule immediately.

Delhi's AQI stood at 360 in 'very poor' category on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

Delhi associations, security staff get electric heaters

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced the distribution of 10,000 electric heaters to RWAs and security personnel to reduce coal and wood burning. She urged residents to adopt cleaner heating practices. *—PTI*

HC slams action on doctor for not standing before MLA

CHANDIGARH, 22 NOV

Expressing dismay over a government doctor deployed on COVID duty in a Haryana hospital facing disciplinary action for not standing up when an MLA arrived in the emergency ward, the Punjab and Haryana High Court termed the state's behaviour as "insensitive" and "highly disturbing".

"Undesirable incidents" of dedicated medical professionals being ill-treated should be checked, the court said as it directed the Haryana authorities to issue a no-objection certificate to the petitioner doctor for pursuing a postgraduate medical course.

It also imposed Rs 50,000 as costs on the government, which is to be deposited with thePoor Patient Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Petitioner Manoj was a casualty medical officer on duty in the emergency ward of a government hospital at the time of the incident.

A show-cause notice (SCN) was issued to the petitioner as the State proposed to impose a minor punishment under Rule 8 of the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 2016. *—PTI*

ARRESTED BY ED

Petitioner, Abdul Majid claimed that the Mhow Cantonment Board issued a notice without giving him a hearing in the case *PHOTO: PTI*

HC stays demolition of Al-Falah Varsity chairperson's house

INDORE, 22 NOV

The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has temporarily stayed the Mhow Cantonment Board's notice to remove "unauthorised construction" at the ancestral house of Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, the chancellor of Al-Falah University, which is at the focus of the Delhi blast probe.

The high court passed the interim order on Thursday and disposed of the petition filed by Abdul Majid, a resident of the house who challenged the Board's notice.

Siddiqui was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on 18 November.

Majid, a farmer, stated in his petition that Siddiqui gave him the property in 2021 under hiba- Islamic gift- after his father Hammad Ahmed's death, and that he owns it based on the hibanama.

Majid's lawyer said the Cantonment Board issued a notice without giving his client a hearing and issued a direct order to demolish the house.

- Majid, a farmer, stated in his petition that Siddiqui gave him the property in 2021 under hiba- Islamic gift- after his father Hammad Ahmed's death, and that he owns it based on the hibanama.

Cantonment Board's counsel contended that notices had been issued to earlier, to which the petitioner did not respond in time. .

The board's records list the house in Mukeri Mohalla, Mhow in Ahmed's name.

Meanwhile, the ongoing probe revealed that Al Falah University had long-standing links with terror operatives.

Fugitive Indian Mujahideen bomber Mirza Shadab Baig, had done his B.Tech from the university, several of whose doctors were arrested in connection with the Delhi blast case.A team of Punjab Police also visited the campus to enquire about a doctor detained in Pathankot. *—PTI*

2 held for trafficking youths to Myanmar centre

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Delhi Police have apprehended two men allegedly involved in recruiting and trafficking Indian youths to Myanmar, where they faced conditions described as "cyber-slavery" while forced into cyber-fraud operations.

The arrested individuals, Danish Raja, 24, from Bawana, and Harsh, 30, from Faridabad, were detained on Friday.

The case emerged following a raid by Myanmar's military on a scam compound in Myawaddy on 22 October, resulting in the rescue of numerous Indians who had been coerced into fraudulent activities. Almost 300 deported Indians have been repatriated.

According to police, one victim, Imtiyaz Babu, was lured by the prospect of a high-paying data-entry job, only to be trafficked, confined, and forced to commit cyber-fraud under armed supervision.

An FIR was filed based on his complaint, leading to the arrests. Police are further investigating the syndicate's operations and tracing financial trails. *—PTI*

'Central agencies may probe Sabarimala row'

KOZHIKODE, 22 NOV

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Minority Affairs George Kurian on Saturday said that central agencies can intervene in the Sabarimala gold theft case if there is a black money angle and that "Lord Ayyappa will not spare" those involved in the irregularities..

He claimed that those arrested in connection with the irregularities were all "atheists."

Kurian alleged that the CPI(M) leadership looted the gold "so that there is no poverty in the party".

Kurian was responding to queries about the arrest of CPI(M) leader and former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president A Padmakumar in connection with the irregularities in the gold plating of artefacts of the temple.

Meanwhile, TDB president K Jayakumar issued an order stating that no matters should be presented at board meetings without his prior permission.

Moreover, as part of the annual Mandala–Makaravilakku pilgrimage arrangements, a rapid action team was deployed at the temple for additional security in the premises. *—PTI*

11-yr-old boy fights off leopard with school bag in Maharashtra

PALGHAR, 22 NOV

An 11-year-old boy showed remarkable bravery after fighting off a leopard in a forested area of Palghar, Maharashtra. The incident occurred on Friday evening near Mala Padvipada as Mayank Kuvara, a Class 5 pupil, was walking home from school. The leopard pounced on him, but his school bag acted as a shield, preventing more serious injuries.

Mayank and a friend raised loud cries and hurled stones at the animal, forcing it to retreat. Their shouts alerted nearby residents, who rushed to the spot, prompting the leopard to flee back into the forest.

Mayank suffered a claw injury to his hand and is receiving treatment at Vikramgad Rural Hospital, where he has been given stitches. Forest officials visited both the site and the hospital. They stepped up preventive measures, advising schools in leopard-prone areas to close by 4pm and installed an AI camera to monitor the animal's movements. *—PTI*

MGNREGA work limit hiked to 150 days in J&K

JAMMU, 22 NOV

The Centre has approved an increase in the number of person-days provided under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to 150 for Jammu and Kashmir, a move welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had recommended extending the benefit of additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days per household under MGNREGA in the flood, cloud burst, and landslide-affected areas of the Union territory for the 2025-26 financial year.

Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for increasing the MGNREGA work limit.

"I'm grateful to PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for increasing number of person-days provided under MGNREGA to 150 days for J-K to enhance livelihood security in rural areas affected by natural calamity," the lieutenant governor said in a post on X late Friday.

He said 1,962 panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir were declared "flood-affected", causing adverse impact on the livelihoods of the people living there. "The Centre's decision will ensure stable income to vulnerable rural households," Sinha said.*—PTI*

WRAPS BODY IN SACK

Man hammers sex worker to death over money in Kochi

KOCHI, 22 NOV

An unidentified woman was found murdered and wrapped in a plastic sack in the compound of a house in Thevara in Kelara's Kochi, police said on Saturday.

The body, discovered on the tiled courtyard beside the house, was first spotted by the volunteers of "Haritha Karma Sena", the cleaning squad. They informed the local councillor, who alerted the police.

The house owner George KK, a resident of Konthuruthi was also found near the body.

He was soon arrested in connection with the incident

According to the police, the accused brought the woman,

considered a sex worker, to his house from the vicinity of South Girls' High School in Thevara the previous night.

An altercation soon broke out between them over financial matters, and in a fit of rage, he struck her on the head with an iron bar with the intention to kill her, Kochi superintendent of police, Sibi Tom said.

During interrogation, George confessed to the crime. He had reportedly tried to drag her body out of the house to dispose it. However, he collapsed on the ground before he could complete the task.

Earlier, he also sought the help of residents to dispose of the body, claiming it to be a carcass of a pet animal.

Preliminary investigations confirmed the incident was a murder, with bloodstains found inside the house. Detailed interrogation of the suspect revealed the cause and method of the crime, police said.

The victim is believed to hail from Pakakkad district. The police are conducting a probe to gather the details about the woman. *—Agencies*

Ex-IAS officer threatens scribe over news on son

GUWAHATI, 22 NOV

A journalist of a Guwahati-based satellite channel has lodged a complaint with the police, accusing a former bureaucrat of threatening him and his family over a news broadcast recently.

The scribe, Rana Deka, in his complaint to the senior superintendent of police of Bajali on Friday, claimed that the retired IAS officer abused him over phone over a news item regarding the situation outside Baksa jail.

A police officer said that a case has been registered based on the complaint, and an investigation has started into the matter.

Five accused in the singer Zubeen Garg's death case have been in Baksa jail, and violence had erupted when they were taken to the prison last month.

The bureaucrat's son, an Assam Police Service officer who is currently posted in Baksa, was on duty outside the jail to control the situation, and he was caught on camera baton-charging peaceful protestors.

Deka alleged that the ex-IAS officer told him to say that the broadcast video was morphed and threatened him with dire consequences if he failed to do so.

He had even threatened harm to Deka's eight-year-old son, the journalist said. *—PTI*

SMOG'S SILENT VICTIMS

Delhi's toxic air is now making pets sick too. A resident's Reddit post showing a Golden Retriever on a nebuliser, captioned 'Air so s**t even my dog's sick', has drawn fresh attention to the city's worsening pollution crisis. The owner said the dog was diagnosed with bronchitis, an inflammation of the bronchial tubes that causes persistent coughing and mucus. The Redditor added that the entire family had also fallen ill because of the smog

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Experts urge overhaul as student suicides rise

While the tragic incident has sparked nationwide debate, with some blaming schools and others siding with parents, mental health expert Neha Kirpal cautions that such polarisation is misplaced ***PHOTO: PTI***

A outrage over student suicides intensifies, experts are calling for reforms to create "mentally healthy schools" while angry parents' associations are demanding "government takeover" of institutions linked to such cases. In all, the focus is on systematic changes to prevent further loss of young lives.

On Tuesday, a Class-10 student of the St Columba's School in New Delhi, who once dreamt of becoming "the next Shah Rukh Khan", took a fatal step and jumped off the platform of the overground Rajendra Place Metro station following months of alleged harassment by his teachers.

While the tragic incident has sparked nationwide debate, with some blaming schools and others siding with parents, mental health expert Neha Kirpal cautions that such polarisation is misplaced.

She emphasises that "suicidality is everyone's responsibility" -- encompassing teachers, parents, caregivers, staff, and the wider community -- and no one can absolve themselves of it.

"PTAs and school associations need to collaborate to address suicidality systemically and preventively. Suicidal thoughts rarely emerge and act out suddenly; they progress through multiple phases, often overlooked due to myths or assumptions.

"The public narrative of sudden shock often absolves society of responsibility, even though warning signs usually exist. It is crucial to recognise these signs early and respond in a safe, supportive manner for the child," Kirpal, co-founder of Amaha Health and India Mental Health Alliance, told PTI.

There has been a spate of such tragic incidents in recent weeks.

Apart from the Delhi case, a 17-year-old Class-11 student in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa died by suicide after alleging that a male teacher physically assaulted her.

Earlier this month, a nine-year-old girl in Jaipur jumped off the fourth floor of her private school building. The Class-4 student allegedly faced relentless bullying in her school for several months, including verbal abuse from her classmates.

Experts highlight a growing trend of suicidality among schoolchildren, pointing out that India accounts for "one-third of the global suicide burden, and suicide is now the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29".

But Kirpal, who is also the co-author of the book 'Homecoming: Mental Health Journeys of Resilience, Healing and Wholeness', urged all stakeholders, including the media, to go beyond reporting the graphic details of individual incidents.

She stressed that the priority must be to address "systemic gaps in preparedness, mental health support, and institutional response".

One of her key suggestions: a legislation mandating "mentally healthy schools" -- evaluated on standardised criteria for staffing, training, resourcing, and policy.

"There are global initiatives known as 'mentally healthy schools', which assess whether a school meets key standards across areas such as staff training, counsellor availability, and resource allocation to qualify as a mentally healthy institution.

"Currently, our school system faces a significant policy and implementation deficit, with too few counsellors, inadequate training, limited budgets, and an absence of structured mental health frameworks," explained Kirpal, pushing for changes that support not only students, but teachers' mental health as well.

Adding to this, clinical psychologist Jayanti Dutta highlighted the hostile environment many students face, where teachers, themselves under pressure, often fail to address bullying or harassment.

"All these schools have counsellors and clinical psychologists but they often don't intervene. Most teachers don't bother... They're under pressure and have no time. Administrations, too, ignore what is happening with the teachers, creating a very bad atmosphere in these schools," she observed.

Dutta warned that children often cannot confide in even their parents, leading to a loss of trust in adults -- a factor she described as "the most damaging" in a child's mental health journey.

Frustrated with a system that leaves children and their parents to bear the brunt, Aparajitha Gautam, president of the Delhi Parents' Association, did not mince words in holding schools directly accountable.

She pointed to the "deep-rooted failures" within schools, describing them as "commercialised, insensitive, and defensive".

"I know for a fact that in these schools, children's complaints often go unheard, with principals sometimes dismissing concerns by blaming the child. Many such schools maintain counsellors only on paper, while anti-bullying committees and PTAs remain largely hidden or inactive," she said.

Gautam called for criminal action against school managements, immediate cancellation of school recognition, and government takeover, warning that without strict laws and enforcement, little will change.

"If schools know that ignoring complaints or harassing children could result in licence cancellation, things will improve," she added.

In the case of the Delhi boy's suicide, four staff members of St Columba's School, including the headmistress, have been suspended after an FIR was filed in connection with the alleged mental harassment of the Class-10 student. *—PTI*

SALAR

Mobile internet cuts leave Russians stranded

When Russians look back at 2025, many may remember it as the year the government tightened its grip on the country's digital space, bringing sweeping disruptions that increasingly seeped into everyday life.

Across dozens of regions, mobile internet shutdowns, officially introduced to thwart Ukrainian drone navigation, have left residents dealing with malfunctioning payment systems, non-functional apps, blocked messaging platforms and hours-long periods without mobile data. While broadband and Wi-Fi networks remain untouched, the loss of mobile connectivity has proven deeply disruptive.

Since May, outages have persisted through summer and into autumn. In November alone, an average of 57 regions reported daily interruptions, according to Na Svyazi, an activist group monitoring connectivity restrictions. The Kremlin insists the measures are essential. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said they are "absolutely justified and necessary." But analysts disagree. Kateryna Stepanenko of the Institute for the Study of War noted that shutdowns have done little to stem Ukrainian drone attacks, pointing to continued strikes on Russian oil refineries in recent months.

During blackouts, access is limited to a government-approved roster of "white-listed" websites and services. The list varies by provider but typically includes official government portals, selected email and social media platforms, two online marketplaces and Yandex, Russia's largest search engine. Some operators also allow access to certain banking apps, while others do not. Officials have promised to expand the lists, but the lack of consistency only heightens user uncertainty.

For many Russians, the restrictions have become an unsettling glimpse into a possible future. Marina, a resident of Vladivostok, said she was alarmed when an outage left her with access to just one app — belonging to a state-controlled bank. "For me, this is the scariest thing," she said. "The loss of information, the loss of freedom, essentially, is the most depressing thing."

In Ulyanovsk, a man recalled being unable to pay for his tram fare because his credit card terminal could not connect to a network during an outage. Without enough cash, he was stranded.

Families of diabetic children say the shutdowns pose real dangers. Many rely on mobile-connected glucose-monitoring apps to track their children's blood sugar levels while they are at school. Parents warn that children may not immediately notice dangerous spikes or drops, and outages disrupt the alerts that could prevent medical emergencies.

Authorities, meanwhile, have attempted to frame the blackouts as opportunities to embrace a more mindful lifestyle. Roskomnadzor, the internet regulator, posted a cartoon contrasting a young man gloomily staring at his phone with the same man strolling cheerfully through a park holding a book and a coffee.

New restrictions introduced this autumn have further fuelled frustration. One rule imposes a 24-hour "cooling period" on SIM cards that were either used abroad or inactive for 72 hours, during which all mobile data and text services are blocked. Users can only reactivate the SIM by clicking a link sent via text, but this is impossible for SIM cards installed in devices that have no interface for text messaging, such as portable Wi-Fi routers, heating boilers, car systems and electricity metres.

Lawmaker Andrei Svintsov warned that this could render everyday infrastructure inoperable. "Does this mean they'll all die? All the heating boilers will shut down, and all the Chinese cars will stop working? This is a massive problem, and I don't know if the government is even aware of it," he said.

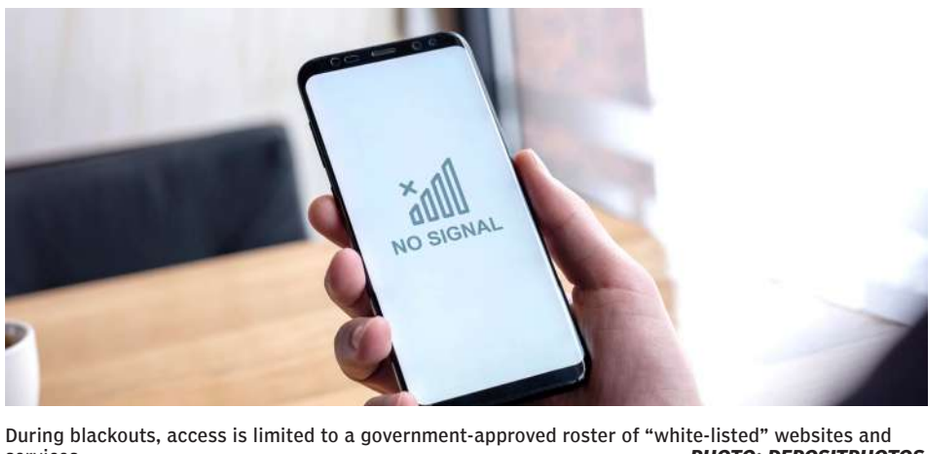
Other restrictions target Russia's two most popular messaging apps, WhatsApp and Telegram, which in October counted roughly 96 million and 91 million monthly users respectively, according to Mediascope. Since August, authorities have throttled and restricted calls on the platforms under the guise of combating phone scams. In some regions, full access has been temporarily blocked. Yelena, from Krasnodar, said her team's work was halted during a period in October when Telegram became completely inaccessible.

Neither WhatsApp nor Telegram is included on the government's white lists.

Instead, officials have promoted MAX, a Russian-built messaging service that openly states it will share user data with authorities on request and lacks end-to-end encryption. Since September, MAX must be preinstalled on all smartphones sold in Russia. Its developers claim around 50 million registrations, but Mediascope reports far lower daily usage — 18.9 million, compared with WhatsApp's 81 million and Telegram's 68 million.

State institutions, businesses and officials are being encouraged, and in some cases instructed, to move their communications to MAX. Even so, many Russians remain reluctant. "I don't plan to install it," Marina said. Others told AP they also refuse.

Pollster Denis Volkov of the Levada Centre said many Russians view the restrictions like adverse weather: unpleasant but inevitable. The government's strategy, he said, appears to be making access to "alternative content" cumbersome enough that users eventually stop seeking it. *—PTI*



During blackouts, access is limited to a government-approved roster of "white-listed" websites and services ***PHOTO: DEPOSITPHOTOS***

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

For Epstein's survivors, release of files offer closure and anxiety

Archival video footage from NBC, released in 2019, shows Donald Trump and Jeffery Epstein at a party at Mar-a-Lago with NFL cheerleaders ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

- For many of Jeffrey Epstein's accusers, the imminent publication of long-sealed US government files represents both a breakthrough moment and a reopening of old wounds. For some, it offers the possibility of long-denied transparency; for others, it brings fear, uncertainty, and the resurfacing of trauma that has shadowed them for decades.

For many of Jeffrey Epstein's accusers, the imminent publication of long-sealed US government files represents both a breakthrough moment and a reopening of old wounds. For some, it offers the possibility of long-denied transparency; for others, it brings fear, uncertainty, and the resurfacing of trauma that has shadowed them for decades. For Marina Lacerda, the release of the Justice Department's extensive records on Epstein is deeply personal. Now 37, she says she was only 14 when Epstein began sexually abusing her at his New York mansion, a period so painful she can scarcely recall it clearly. "I feel that the government and the FBI know more than I do, and that scares me, because it's my life, it's my past," she told The Associated Press. She hopes the documents may fill in the gaps left by trauma: "I need to know, for my healing process and for the adult in me, what I did as a child."

President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday compelling the Justice Department to release the files, culled from more than two decades of investigations. "We have waited long enough. We've fought long enough," Lacerda said.

How much new information the files will contain remains uncertain. Although Epstein's alleged abuse spanned years and involved numerous girls and young women, only Epstein and his associate Ghislaine Maxwell were ever charged in connection with the offences. Yet many accusers believe the records could expose a wider network of individuals who enabled, facilitated, or participated in the crimes.

A HISTORY OF ABORTED INVESTIGATIONS

Two major investigations into Epstein were cut short in the mid-2000s. Police and the FBI began probing him after several underage girls reported being paid for sexual acts. Despite mounting evidence, Epstein avoided federal prosecution due to a secret plea deal with the US attorney in Florida. In 2008 he pleaded guilty to state charges of procuring a minor for prostitution and served little more than a year.

Among his accusers is Jena-Lisa Jones, who says she was abused in Palm Beach in 2002 when she too was 14. She did not initially report the abuse but later joined the growing number of women suing Epstein. The 2018 Miami Herald investigation that exposed new details about the abandoned federal case eventually prompted prosecutors in New York to revive the matter in 2019.

Jones was interviewed extensively and had prepared to testify in court.

"It was very important for me to have my moment, for him to see my face and hear my words, and me to have that control and power back," she said. That moment never came: Epstein killed himself in a federal jail cell in August 2019.

In the absence of a court trial, Jones hopes the publication of the government's files will offer some form of public reckoning.

She believes the documents could outline a "broad scheme" involving others beyond Epstein and Maxwell. "I'm hoping they're shaking a little bit and that they have what's coming for them," she said.

FILLING IN THE BLANKS

Lacerda's memories of her time with Epstein are fragmented. An immigrant from Brazil, she said she was supporting her family by working three jobs the summer before she entered Year 9 when a friend told her she could earn USD 300 by giving Epstein massages. The first time, she said, he told her to remove her shirt. Before long she was spending so much time at Epstein's properties that she dropped out of school. The abuse continued until she was 17, when Epstein told her she was "too old," she said.

She fears the files may contain videos or photographs of her and other victims, a possibility she finds both terrifying and necessary. "It will be re-traumatising, but it's transparency, and I need it," she said.

RELIEF MEETS SUSPICION

Yet the initial elation over the files' release has, for Lacerda and others, been tempered by renewed wariness. "In the heat of the moment, we were like, wow, this is everything we've been fighting for. And then we had to take a moment and be like, wait a minute. Why is he releasing the files all of a sudden?" she said.

She fears the documents might be doctored or heavily redacted to shield powerful people linked to Epstein. Others wonder whether the identities of victims who have remained anonymous will be sufficiently protected, fearing that renewed public scrutiny could lead to harassment or retraumatisation.

"For the rest of my life, I will never truly trust the government because of what they've done to us," Jones said.

Haley Robson, who says she was abused at 16 and later became a prominent advocate pushing for Florida's 2024 legislation that unsealed transcripts from the 2006 state grand jury proceedings, shares those concerns. The political manoeuvring in recent months surrounding the files has triggered feelings reminiscent of her teenage years. "This is kind of what Jeffrey Epstein did to us. He wasn't transparent. He played these manipulation tactics," she said.

Still, Robson is trying to savour the moment. "This is the first time since 2006 that I don't feel like the underdog," she said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

US man becomes first to die from rare bird flu strain

WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

A man from Washington state is believed to be the first person to die from a rare strain of bird flu, but health officials said the risk to the public is low. The man, a senior, with underlying medical conditions, was being treated for a bird flu virus strain called H5N5 after becoming the first known human to be infected by it, the Washington State Department of Health said on Friday. The man from Greys Harbour County, 120 km southwest of Seattle, had a flock of domestic poultry that was exposed to wild birds. H5N5 is not a greater threat to humans than H5N1, which caused 70 human infections in the US in 2024 and 2025. *—PTI*

Usha Vance seen ringless after JD-Erika Kirk hug

NORTH CAROLINA, 22 NOV

A Second Lady Usha Vance has generated speculation after being spotted without her wedding ring during a public event with First Lady Melania Trump at Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River in North Carolina. The White House reported that they met with students, educators, military families, and service members from both installations. Political strategist Adam Parkhomenko remarked, "Interesting. Usha Vance minus a wedding ring yesterday at Camp Lejeune," while the Democratic Party quipped, "Is JD sleeping on the couch?" Recent tensions surrounding Usha's Hindu faith and JD Vance's comments on conversion have also attracted attention. *—Agencies*

300 kids confirmed abducted from Nigerian school

ABUJA, 22 NOV

A total of 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers were abducted by gunmen during an attack on St Mary's School, a Catholic institution in north-central Nigeria's Niger state, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Saturday, updating an earlier tally of 215 schoolchildren. The tally was changed "after a verification exercise and a final census was carried out," the Most Rev Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of the Niger state chapter of CAN, said. He said 88 other students "were also captured after they tried to escape". The students were both male and female and ranged in age from 10 to 18. The school kidnapping in Niger state's remote Papiri community happened four days after 25 schoolchildren were seized in similar circumstances in neighbouring Kebbi state's Maga town. *—PTI*

17 militants killed in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 22 NOV

At least 17 TTP militants were killed and many others were injured in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said on Saturday. Security forces launched operations in the Sheri Khel and Pakka Pahar Khel areas of Bannu district after confirming the presence of militants. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed said 10 militants were killed, five were injured, and one facilitator was arrested in a joint operation led by the Lakki Police, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Bannu and security forces. He said the bodies of seven militants had been recovered, while three could not be retrieved. *—PTI*

Trump, Mamdani, have 'lots in common'

In a cordial first meet, Trump says Conservatives will like Mayor-elect; Zohran lauds Don

WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

President Donald Trump has called New York City's Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani a "100 per cent Communist Lunatic" and a "total nut job." Mamdani has called Trump's administration "authoritarian" and described himself as "Donald Trump's worst nightmare."

But their first-ever meeting on Friday at the White House focused more on their shared goals rather than their combustible differences. They discussed housing affordability and the cost of groceries and utilities.

"We're going to be helping him, to make everybody's dream come true, having a strong and very safe New York," Trump told reporters with Mamdani beside him in the Oval Office. "We agree on a lot more than I thought."

"What I really appreciate about the President is that the meeting that we had focused not on places of disagreement, which there are many, and also focused on the shared purpose that we have in serving New Yorkers," Mamdani said.

New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and US President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

"I think he is going to surprise some Conservative people, actually," said Trump.

Mamdani, a Democratic Socialist who takes office in January, said he sought the meeting with Trump to talk about ways to make New York City more affordable. Trump has said he may want to help him out — although he has labelled Mamdani as a "communist" and threatened to yank federal funds from his hometown.

Unlike Trump's hostile meetings with leaders such as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, where the Republican attempted to humiliate them, the meeting with Mamdani was cordial.

"Some of his ideas are really the same ideas that I have," the President said of Mamdani about inflationary issues. "I think you're going to have, hopefully, a really great Mayor. The better he does, the happier I am."

Mamdani said the meeting focused on affordability, agreeing with Trump that they had something in common. He said New Yorkers who voted for Trump in 2024, voted Democrat during the New York election over affordability.

Despite expectations of tension, the meeting was calm. Trump agreed with Mamdani's push for more housing, noting. "I want to see the same thing," he said. *—Agencies*

Won't be a battered wife: Marjorie resigns from Congress

WASHINGTON, 22 NOV

Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, a once-loyal supporter of President Donald Trump who has become a critic, said Friday she is resigning from Congress in January.

She said in a video announcing her departure: "I refuse to be a 'battered wife' hoping it all goes away and gets better."

Trump responded by calling her resignation "great news for the country".

Trump and Greene had fallen out in a public feud. The Republican Congresswoman has criticised Trump's foreign policy focus and his reluctance to release more documents related to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Trump responded by supporting a primary challenge against her and called her "Wacky" Marjorie. *—Agencies*

A 'COMMUNIST' AND A 'FASCIST' MEET IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Mamdani calls Trump a 'fascist'

A reporter asked Mamdani about past comments comparing Trump to a fascist, Trump interjected, "I've been called much worse than a despot." When Mamdani was asked again, Trump interrupted the Mayor-elect's attempt to explain, saying, "You can just say yes. OK? It's easier." Mamdani obliged and said, "yes".

Trump 'sticks up' for Mamdani

A reporter asked Mamdani why he flew to Washington instead of driving or taking the train, given his commitments green energy. Trump interjected and said "I'll stick up for you," citing the time difference it would take, while Mamdani said he would focus on making transport affordable.

US is funding Israel's genocide: Zohran

Mamdani said that Israel was committing a genocide in Gaza and the US was funding it, while standing next to the American President. When asked about it, Mamdani replied, saying yes and that he shared that concern with many New Yorkers about their taxes being used to perpetuate the action.

Zohran's not a Jihadist: Trump

Trump appeared to backtrack from the Republican line, saying the Mamdani was not a "jihadist". The President said Mamdani was a "rational person." Trump had earlier called Mamdani a "communist lunatic" while Republicans have said he wants to impose sharia law in New York.

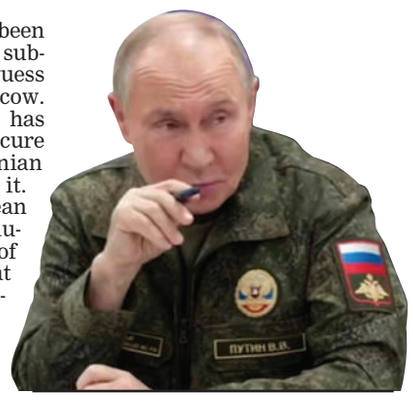
Putin welcomes US' 28-point peace deal

KYIV, 22 NOV

Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the US proposal to end Moscow's war in Ukraine, saying it "could form the basis of a final peace settlement."

Putin said on Friday that Moscow had received the 28-point plan, which he called "a new version" and "modernised".

"But this text has not been discussed with us in any substantive way, and I can guess why," Putin said in Moscow. "The US administration has so far been unable to secure the consent of the Ukrainian side. Ukraine is against it. Ukraine and its European allies are still under illusions and the dream of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia on the battlefield."



Earlier on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Kyiv is facing a choice between standing up for its dignity or losing American support. Zelenskyy called it "truly one of the most difficult moments in our history."

The US plan contains many of Putin's longstanding demands while offering limited security guarantees to Ukraine. It foresees Ukraine handing over territory to Russia, something Zelenskyy has repeatedly ruled out, reduces the size of it army and blocks its coveted path to NATO membership.

US President Donald Trump said he wants an answer from Zelenskyy on his by Thursday.

"I've had a lot of deadlines, but if things are working well, you tend to extend the deadlines," Trump said on Fox News. "But Thursday is it — we think an appropriate time."

"He's not thinking of more war," Trump said of Putin. "He's thinking punishment."

Separately in the Oval Office, Trump remarked that Zelenskyy is going to have to approve the plan.

Zelenskyy spoke earlier by phone with the leaders of Germany, France and the United Kingdom, who assured him of their continued support, as Europe scrambled to respond.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer assured Zelenskyy of "their unchanged and full support", Merz's office said.

Starmer said that Ukraine's allies would discuss the plan at the G20 summit in South Africa. *—PTI*

Wealth inequality unjust: Ramaphosa kicks off G20

JOHANNESBURG, 22 NOV

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Saturday said global disparities in wealth and development were "unjust and unsustainable", calling them a major barrier to shared prosperity as he opened the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg. Addressing over 40 world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he urged dismantling divisions based on economic status, gender, race and geography to secure a sustainable future.

Ramaphosa said South Africa, as a founding G20 member, continues to push for the priorities of Africa and the Global South to be central to the forum's agenda, noting this was vital for global stability, resource security and reducing conflict risks. Highlighting challenges such as geopolitical tensions, climate change, poverty and food and energy insecurity, he pressed for faster progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

He backed the Sevilla Commitment on development financing and called for reforming global financial institutions to make them more inclusive. Ramaphosa outlined South Africa's priorities: disaster resilience, debt sustainability, just energy transition financing and strengthening critical mineral beneficiation. Stressing the theme "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability", he said the G20 must protect its credibility. *—PTI*

Want to negotiate with Israel over strikes: Lebanon

BEIRUT , 22 NOV

In an Independence Day address, Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun said he is ready to negotiate an agreement that would end Israeli strikes on the country and secure Israel's withdrawal from five border hills it has occupied since the Israel–Hezbollah war ended last year.

Lebanese troops are prepared to deploy in all areas from which Israeli forces would withdraw. Aoun said, "the cease-fire-monitoring committee—comprising the US, France, Israel, Lebanon and UNIFIL—could verify that only Lebanese state forces are deployed along the border under any new arrangement."

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began October 2023, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel, after Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel in solidarity with Hamas.

2 kids have been killed per day in Gaza since the Israel ceasefire, on average: UN

Israel launched a widespread bombardment of Lebanon for two months last year that severely weakened Hezbollah, followed by a ground invasion, before ending in a tenacious ceasefires.

Over the past four decades, several conflicts involving Hezbollah have resulted in the deaths thousands in Lebanon, including civilians. *—PTI*

23 kids die of malnutrition in Sudan's Kordofan region

CAIRO, 22 NOV

Almost two dozen children died of malnutrition-related causes within a month in central Sudan, where fierce fighting between the country's military and a paramilitary group has centred, a medical group said.

The deaths of 23 children in the capital Kordofan region underscore the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the northeastern African country, where famine is spreading after more than 30 months of devastating war.

The children's deaths were reported between 20 October and 20 November in the besieged city of Kadugli and the town of Dilling, said the Sudan Doctors Network.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has besieged Kadugli town for months, with tens of thousands of people trapped as the group tries to seize more territory from the Sudanese military.

Groups said the deaths were a result of a blockade a famine spreads in the country after 30 months of war *PHOTO: DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS*

The group said late Friday that the deaths were a "result of severe acute malnutrition and shortages of essential supplies" in the two areas, where a blockade "prevents the entry of food and medicine and puts the lives of thousands of civilians at risk."

The devastating war has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, according to the UN. *—PTI*

Bolsonaro arrested ahead of 27-year prison sentence

SAO PAULO, 22 NOV

Brazil's federal police arrested former president Jair Bolsonaro preemptively on Saturday, just days before he was due to commence a 27-year prison sentence for orchestrating a coup attempt. A close aide confirmed the arrest occurred around 6am at his home in the affluent Jardim Botanico neighbourhood, before he was taken to the police headquarters in Brasilia.

The federal police, acting on the request of Brazil's Supreme Court, released a brief statement that did not name Bolsonaro.

However, aide Andriely Cirino confirmed the details to the Associated Press.

The 70-year-old former leader, who served as president from 2019 to 2022, is expected to start his sentence next week after exhausting all avenues for appeal against his conviction. *—PTI*

LIVES AT STAKE

42 Nepal glacial lakes at high risk of bursting, causing floods: Experts

Forty-two of the 2,069 glacial lakes across Nepal are at 'highly at risk' of bursting, experts said. They are all in the Koshi province *PHOTO: ICIMOD*

KATHMANDU, 22 NOV

Forty-two glacial lakes in Nepal are at critical risk of bursting, experts said.

A potential glacial lake outburst could result in floods. Previous glacial lake bursts have resulted in massive loss of life and severe damage to infrastructure, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) expert Sharad Prasad Joshi warned on Friday during a discussion in Khandbari, the headquarters of Sankhuwasabha district.

A glacial lake is a body of water that originates from a glacier. It typically forms at the foot of a glacier, but may form on, in, or under it.

Joshi said an ICIMOD report titled 'Risks Arising From Rapid Changes in Nepal's Glaciers and Glacial Lakes' had classified 42 of the 2,069 glacial lakes across the country as "highly at risk", all located in the Koshi province.

In Sankhuwasabha, four glacial lakes, including those in the Bhotkhola and Makalu areas, have been listed as high risk, he said.

The Tallopokhari glacial lake in the lower Barun area has been identified as the most vulnerable. The lake is about 3km long and around 206m deep, with surrounding depths ranging from 15 to 25m.

A large pond in the lower Barun area has also been included in the mitigation initiative.

Joshi warned that a lake burst could endanger several settlements and infrastructure in the Arun Valley. In addition, 13 glacial lakes originating in Tibet could pose threats to the province's northern areas, he noted.

ICIMOD expert, Neera Shrestha Pradhan, said women, children, and the elderly are the most affected during disasters. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Sagarmala Finance Corp to raise Rs 8,000 crore

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV 22

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) will raise Rs 8,000 crore in the current financial year from banks, financial institutions and through bonds to boost the maritime capabilities of the nation. SMFCL, formerly known as Sagarmala Development Company Limited, is India's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company. It was registered as an NBFC with the RBI on 19 June. The SMFCL said that its board had approved a proposal to raise Rs 8,000 crore in the current fiscal. It also approved the overall borrowing limit of Rs 25,000 crore. The SMFCL comes under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. It aims to bridge the financial gaps in the maritime sector and facilitate investments. *—PTI*

Air India, Air Canada to reinstate codeshare deal

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Air India on Saturday announced the reinstatement of its codeshare agreement with fellow Star Alliance carrier, Air Canada, to offer more flight options for travellers and boost connectivity between India and Canada. By definition, a codeshare flight is an agreement between airlines to sell seats on each other's flights, helping airlines to fly a wide range of destinations. Effective 2 December, 2025, the codeshare agreement will enable Air India to offer its customers convenient access to six points across Canada beyond its gateways at Vancouver and London (Heathrow), Air India said in a statement. Customers with itineraries combining flights operated by Air India and Air Canada can travel on a single ticket and benefit from a unified baggage allowance. *—PTI*

Tier II, III cities may drive India's retail expansion

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

India's retail expansion is rapidly moving beyond major metros, caused by the emergence of Tier II and Tier III as strong growth drivers. In the report, Cushman & Wakefield's Q3 2025 Retail Market Beat observe sharp rise in leasing volumes in these cities, reflecting growing retailer confidence and shifting consumer behaviour. Rising incomes, improved infrastructure, and wider brand presence are accelerating this shift. Consumers are spending more on lifestyle and experiences, encouraging retail formats that blend shopping, entertainment, and dining. Cushman & Wakefield data shows the areas of fashion, food, and entertainment are leading momentum. *—ANI*

Daily Mail in talks to buy Telegraph Media for $654M

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT), owners of the British tabloid Daily Mail, has entered exclusive talks to acquire Telegraph Media Group, bringing together two news organisations long aligned with the Conservative Party. DMGT said the discussions are aimed at finalising a USD 654 million deal to buy the Telegraph from the Abu Dhabi-backed venture RedBird IMI. "Under ownership, the Daily Telegraph will become a global brand, just as the Daily Mail has," said Chairman Jonathan Harmsworth, also known as Lord Rothermere. In November 2023, New York-based RedBird Capital and Abu Dhabi's International Media Investments agreed to acquire the Telegraph. The deal triggered a debate in the House of Commons about the dangers of foreign influence over Britain's news media. *—PTI*

Zomato, Amazon evaluate impact of new labour codes

Meanwhile, Unions are gearing up for a nationwide stir

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

India has officially implemented four new labour codes aimed at transforming the employment landscape, while many firms like Eternal Ltd (formerly Zomato) and Amazon have welcomed the new reforms, the Labour Unions, however, are gearing up for a nationwide protest.

Eternal stated that the codes will bolster social security access for gig workers, including those in Zomato and Blinkit. In a regulatory filing, the company noted, "We don't think any financial impact on account of these Rules will be detrimental to the long-term health and sustainability of our business. We have been anticipating and planning for these social security-related contributions in our businesses for a while now."

Similarly, an Amazon India spokesperson remarked, "We welcome the government's intent of implementing labour reforms, and we are evaluating the changes which would have to be ushered in."

Eternal stated that the codes will bolster social security access for gig workers, including those in Zomato and Blinkit *PHOTO: ANI*

The new codes define 'gig work', 'platform work', and 'aggregators' for the first time, mandating that aggregators allocate 1-2 per cent of their annual turnover to support gig and platform workers. This legislative overhaul, consolidating 29 existing laws, is designed to formalise employment, enhance worker protection, and establish a streamlined regulatory environment.

Commerce ministry officials highlighted that these reforms provide necessary flexibility and predictability, allowing India's export ecosystem to better compete in the global market while promoting fair wages and social security for all workers.

Additionally, a joint forum of 10 labour unions on Friday condemned the labour reforms, saying the move is "anti-worker" and supports employers.

However, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh welcomed the reforms and termed it a long-awaited move.

In a landmark overhaul of labour laws, the government on Friday notified all four Labour Codes, ushering in major reforms, including universal social security coverage for gig workers, mandatory appointment letters for all employees, and statutory minimum wages and timely payment across sectors.

In a separate statement, BMS said the four labour codes address the concerns of labour market. *—Agencies*

FAILURE TO COMPLY

US court orders Byju to pay $1B to Alpha, GLAS

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

A US court has issued a default judgment making **Byju Raveendran** liable to personally pay back over $1 billion on a petition filed by BYJU's Alpha and US-based lender GLAS Trust Company LLC.

The judgment dated 20 November, says the Delaware Bankruptcy Court found that Raveendran failed to comply with its discovery order and was evasive.

"The court will enter a default judgment against defendant Raveendran... regarding the amount of USD 533,000,000, and on Counts II, V and VI in the amount of $ 540,647,109.29," the judgment said.

The judgment directed Raveendran to provide a full and accurate accounting of the Alpha Funds and any proceeds thereof, such as the Camshaft LP Interest, including each and every subsequent transfer and any proceeds thereof.

An email sent to Raveendran's agency did not elicit any immediate reply.

BYJU's Alpha was incorporated when Raveendran was running the management of the edtech firm Think and Learn Private Limited (TLPL), which operated under the BYJU's brand name.

TLPL had secured a USD 1 billion Term Loan B from the US-based lenders.

The lenders had later alleged that BYJU's Alpha had violated the terms of the loan, and USD 533 million out of the total debt had been moved out of the US illegitimately.*—PTI*

Union Minister Piyush Goyal with Minister of Economy and Industry of Israel Nir Barkat signs the Terms of Reference, in Israel *PHOTO: PTI*

Goyal aims to boost agri, tech & trade with Israel

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a series of significant engagements during his official visit to Israel, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, technology, innovation and trade.

On Friday, Goyal met Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Avi Dichter, for detailed discussions on advancing agricultural collaboration. Dichter presented Israel's 25-year food-security roadmap, its cutting-edge seed-improvement strategies and the country's world-leading water-reuse technologies for farming.

Goyal later visited the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation, where he was introduced to Israel's pioneering technological ecosystem. Demonstrations included landmark innovations such as drip-irrigation systems, medical-stent technology, the Iron Dome defense system and emerging virtual-reality solutions.

An autonomous-drive demonstration by Mobileye further showcased Israel's advancements in next-generation mobility. At Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, the Minister observed cooperative living, sustainable agricultural methods and community-driven innovation. These interactions provided key insights into Israel's technological strengths and its approach to rural development.

Earlier, Goyal met Economy Minister Nir Barkat and addressed the India–Israel Business Forum, which highlighted strong private-sector interest in expanding cooperation across technology, agritech, AI, quantum computing, pharmaceuticals and defense. Talks with Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich focused on strengthening investment links and financial-technology collaboration. *—ANI*

Space startup Agnikul raises Rs 150 cr

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Space startup Agnikul Cosmos has successfully raised Rs 150 crore in a recent funding round, achieving a valuation exceeding half a billion dollars. The funds will be utilised to develop reusable launch vehicles. Incubated at IIT-Chennai, Agnikul showcased a sub-orbital rocket launch last year and plans to deploy its 3D-printed Agnibaan rocket for small satellite launches into low Earth orbit next year.

The startup is also focused on recovering the lower stage of its launch vehicle for re-use in future missions.

Investors including family offices and institutions such as Advenza Global Limited and HDFC Bank participated in the funding round. Capital will be directed towards scaling aerospace component production, advancing stage-recovery programmes, and establishing an integrated space campus in Tamil Nadu for end-to-end manufacturing and testing of launch vehicle systems, further solidifying India's role in the global space tech sector. *—PTI*

India's exports decline for 14 consecutive months: Crisil

KOLKATA, 22 NOV

India's merchandise exports have experienced an 11.8 per cent year-on-year decline, amounting to USD 34.38 billion in October, marking the 14th consecutive month of fall, according to a report by Crisil. This downturn follows a significant 50 per cent increase in US tariffs imposed on 27 August this year, which has adversely affected export performance for the second month running.

The decline spans multiple sectors, including petroleum products, gems and jewellery, and core exports. Specifically, exports of petroleum products fell by 10.4 per cent year-on-year in October, a stark contrast to the 15.1 per cent growth seen in September. Likewise, core exports saw a decrease to 10.2 per cent compared to a 6.1 per cent growth in the previous month.

Additionally, merchandise exports to the United States dropped by 8.6 per cent year-on-year to USD 6.3 billion in October, although this reflects an improvement from a sharper 11.9 per cent decline in September.

The decline spans multiple sectors, including petroleum products, gems and jewellery, and core exports *PHOTO: ANI*

Exports to non-US markets also fell by 12.5 per cent year-on-year, after experiencing growth of 10.9 per cent in September.

The report indicates a silver lining as the US announced on November 16 a reduction in tariffs on 254 food items, which could benefit certain agricultural exports such as tea and spices.

Crisil also noted that India's current account deficit remains manageable, bolstered by robust services trade, remittances, and softer crude prices. Meanwhile, merchandise imports held steady at USD 76.06 billion in October. *—PTI*

Non-American mkts may boost shrimp exports

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

India's shrimp exports have seen remarkable growth in the first five months of FY26, with total export value climbing 18 per cent year-on-year to USD 2.43 billion. This increase is largely attributed to a strategic pivot towards non-US markets, which experienced a 30 per cent surge in value, reaching USD 1.38 billion. Non-US markets now account for 57 per cent of India's shrimp exports, up from 51 per cent.

"Export momentum may soften in H2 2025-26 due to continued US pressure and weaker fresh orders," noted CareEdge Ratings. Exports to the USA grew by only 5 per cent amid escalating tariffs, with effective duties skyrocketing to 58 per cent post-August 2025.

China, Japan, Vietnam, and Belgium emerged as strong importers, with Vietnam's exports doubling to USD 0.18 billion. "India's shrimp export performance is expected to moderate by 10-12 per cent on the back of US tariff headwinds," warned Ratheesh Kumar, Associate Director at CareEdge Ratings. *—ANI*

Railways achieve record 1BT freight

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Indian Railways' freight performance continues to strengthen India's economic base, with cumulative loading this year crossing the 1-billion-tonne mark. As of 19 November, total freight reached 1,020 million tonnes (MT), according to an official statement.

Coal remains the largest contributor at 505 MT, followed by iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT), containers (59 MT), pig iron and finished steel (47 MT), fertilisers (42 MT), mineral oil (32 MT), food grains (30 MT), and raw materials for steel plants and other goods.

Daily loading has held firm at around 4.4 MT, up from 4.2 MT last year, reflecting improved efficiency and sustained demand. From April to October, freight volumes rose to 935.1 MT, compared with 906.9 MT in the same period last year.

To support infrastructure growth, Railways has introduced reforms to modernise cement logistics, including the Policy for Bulk Cement Terminals and rationalised rates for cement movement in containers. These measures aim to boost capacity, cut transit time and reduce logistics costs.

Shifting bulk freight to rail reduces emissions, eases road congestion and supports greener logistics, aligning with India's Net Zero targets.

Separately, India's full-year fiscal deficit is estimated at 1.0–1.3 per cent of GDP, with a balance-of-payments shortfall of up to USD 10 billion. *—ANI*

Indian tech investor Shumeet quits BBC board

LONDON, 22 NOV

Shumeet Banerji, an Indian-origin technology investor, has resigned as a non-executive board member of the BBC, citing "governance issues" at the top of the corporation. His departure on Friday comes amid ongoing upheaval over the editing of former US President Donald Trump's 2021 speech for a Panorama documentary — an error that prompted the resignations of director-general Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turners, and led BBC chairman Samir Shah to issue a public apology.

In his resignation letter, reported by BBC News, Banerji said he had not been consulted about the circumstances leading to the senior departures.

The BBC confirmed his exit, noting that his term was due to end in December and that the process to find a replacement is already under way.

Banerji, founder of the advisory and investment firm Condorcet, also serves on the boards of Jio Platforms and Reliance Industries. As a non-executive director, he earned £33,000 a year and was responsible for helping safeguard BBC's independence and governance standards. *—PTI*

SAYS SBI RESEARCH

'India's trade flow stays steady amid global uncertainty'

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

India's trade flows have shown resilience despite global uncertainty and currency volatility, according to a report by SBI Research. During April to September of FY26, India's total merchandise exports rose by 2.9 per cent to USD 220 billion compared to USD 214 billion in the same period last year.

Exports to the United States also grew by 13 per cent to USD 45 billion from USD 40 billion a year ago, although September saw a year-on-year decline of around 12 per cent, the report said. While the US remains a major trading partner, its share in India's overall exports has been falling since July 2025, slipping to 15 per cent in September.

Key sectors such as marine products, ready-made cotton garments, and precious stones have seen mixed trends *PHOTO: PTI*

Key sectors such as marine products, ready-made cotton garments, and precious stones have seen mixed trends. The share of the US in India's exports of marine products dropped to 15 per cent in September from 20 per cent in FY25, and in precious stones from 37 per cent to just 6 per cent. However, marine products and cotton garments continued to show positive growth during the April-September period.

At the same time, India's export destinations have become more diverse. The share of countries such as the UAE, China, Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria increased across different product categories. SBI notes that this shift could suggest an indirect route for Indian goods, as some of these countries may be re-exporting to US.

Meanwhile, India is navigating the US tariff challenges as the Trump adminstration has levied the highest tariffs on Indian goods among Asian nations, affecting sectors like textiles, jewellery, and seafood, particularly shrimp. *—ANI*

Lakshya Sen enters Australian Open final

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen PHOTO: PTI

SYDNEY, 22 NOV

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the men's singles final of the Australian Open Super 500 with a gritty three-game win over world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, here on Saturday.

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, showed immense mental toughness to recover from an opening-game setback and outlast the second seed 17-21, 24-22, 21-16 in an 86-minute semifinal.

The 24-year-old, who reached the Hong Kong Open final earlier this year but is yet to win a title this season, will face either Japan's Yushi Tanaka or Chinese Taipei's fifth seed Lin Chun-Yi in Sunday's summit clash.

Lakshya looked patchy early on, while Chen was far more precise with his shot selection and execution, which allowed the Taiwanese to dominate the rallies. His steady play earned him an 11-6 lead at the mid-game interval.

Chen's aggressive backcourt attack paid off as he raced to 14-7. Lakshya briefly halted the run with a big smash to the deep corner, but Chen immediately won back the serve with a sharp cross-court winner. The Indian kept feeding shuttles into Chen's hitting zone, and the Taiwanese repeatedly unleashed his power smashes.

A net error from Lakshya made it 19-13 before Chen, who had committed a few soft mistakes, steadied himself again. At 19-15, the two played a 44-shot rally that ended with Chen delivering a killing blow to earn five game points. Lakshya saved two, but then drove one into the net to concede the opener.

After the change of ends, both players took time to adjust, trading errors as the score moved from 2-2 to 4-4. Chen's pinpoint attacks began clicking again as he pulled ahead 7-4.

But Lakshya fought back superbly, levelling at 9-9 with Chen's defence beginning to fray. The Taiwanese's aggression softened, and his accuracy dipped as Lakshya applied pressure to take an 11-9 lead with a fine net shot. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

India to face Nepal in first-ever Blind Women's T20 WC

COLOMBO, 22 NOV

India beat Australia on Saturday to enter the final of the first Blind Women's T20 World Cup against Nepal, the winner of the other semifinal against Pakistan in Colombo. India won the first semifinal by nine wickets while Nepal cruised into Sunday's final at Colombo's P. Saravanamuttu Stadium after beating Pakistan by seven wickets. Australia's Chanakan Buakhao top-scored with 34 to take its total to 109 for nine in 20 overs. India's Simranjeet Kour took 1-6, having bowled two overs. Australia suffered six runouts. Basanti Hansda top-scored for India with 45 while Ganga Kadam (41) and K. Karuna (16) were not out when they took India into the finals with 112 for one in 11.5 overs.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Mahit Sandhu clinches 50m Rifle 3 Positions gold

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Continuing with her splendid debut run, India's Mahit Sandhu clinched the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions gold for her fourth medal at the Summer Deaflympics in Tokyo. Mahit totalled 456.0 after 45 shots to bag her second gold of the Games. South Korea's Dain Jeong took silver with 453.5, while Hungary's Mira Zsuzsanna Biatovszki claimed bronze with 438.6. Mahit also broke both the Deaf Qualification World Record and the Deaflympics world record on her way to the final. She topped qualification with 585-31x scoring 194 in kneeling, 198 in prone and 193 in standing breaking her own previous mark of 576 set at last year's World Deaf Shooting Championships in Hannover.—*PTI*

T20I Tri-Series: Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Sahibzada Farhan guides the Men In Green home with ease, hitting Eshan Malinga through the line over mid-on for a boundary. He finishes unbeaten on 80 off 45 as Pakistan defeat Sri Lanka by seven wickets to bring up their second straight win in the tri-series and fourth T20I victory in a row. Chameera strikes twice in consecutive deliveries! First, Babar Azam is bowled for 16 off 22, missing a full delivery outside off-stump as the stumps are uprooted, leaving the crowd still cheering. Immediately after, Salman Agha falls lbw for a duck on 1 ball.—*PTI*

Lando Norris takes pole in rainy Las Vegas qualifier

LAS VEGAS, 22 NOV

Formula 1's title contenders mastered the wet and slick Las Vegas Strip in a rainy Friday night qualifying session that saw championship leader Lando Norris take pole. Norris of McLaren took the top starting spot at the Las Vegas Grand Prix at the line after four-time reigning world champion Max Verstappen had jumped to the top of the board. But the Red Bull driver, who won the inaugural Las Vegas race in 2023 and took his fourth straight title last year, was only there a few moments before Norris bumped him down a stop. "Boy, it was stressful as hell," Norris said. "It was pretty nasty, probably some of the worst conditions, if not the worst. It was so slippery, so difficult."—*PTI*

Bowlers give Team India upper hand

South Africa end Day One at 247/6

GUWAHATI, 22 NOV

Temba Bavuma paid the price for his momentary indiscretion while Tristan Stubbs fell prey to Kuldeep Yadav's guile as bowlers put India on top in the second Test, reducing South Africa to 247 for six on an attritional opening day of cricket, here.

It was a track with a difference where survival, unlike Kolkata, wasn't difficult, but at the same time, it wasn't a belter either, where a team could just race away with a flurry of boundaries.

The Indian bowlers, especially Kuldeep (3/48) and Jasprit Bumrah (1/38), displayed immaculate control and mastery on a track that was reasonably good for batting with no signs of variable bounce whatsoever.

Ravindra Jadeja (1/30) didn't get much help off the surface, but dismissing Bavuma (41 off 92 balls) was one of the turning points of day one.

Tristan Stubbs PHOTO: PTI

It was an over-pitched delivery, and Bavuma wanted to play the lofted drive over mid-off. The ball stopped on him and hit a slightly higher part of the bat, and never got the elevation required. Yashasvi Jaiswal pouched it smartly. This was after his 84-run stand with Tristan Stubbs (49 off 112 balls), and South Africa were looking good to carry on with the momentum. Following Bavuma's dismissalStubbs did look good after some initial jitters as he used his big 6 feet 4 inch frame to come down the track, defend the deliveries based on length, and attack when need be. Both his sixes off Kuldeep -- one over long-on and the other over long-offwere a result of picture-perfect footwork.

South Africa 247 for 6 (Stubbs 49, Bavuma 41, Kuldeep 3-48) vs India. —*PTI*

Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah and KL Rahul PHOTO: PTI

Travis Head's ton, Aus beat England

1st Ashes Test ends in two days

PERTH, 22 NOV

Travis Head flipped the narrative and dominated the England pace bowlers with one of the great centuries in Ashes cricket Saturday as Australia raced to an eight-wicket victory with three days to spare in the first Test.

Head turned England's "Bazball" tactics back on the visitors, clobbering a century from 69 deliveries after being promoted up the order to open the innings when Usman Khawaja was injured.

In three innings across five sessions, fast bowlers were right on top as 30 wickets fell for 468 runs 113 overs in Perth 19 on an extraordinary Day 1 and 11 before the tea interval on Day 2. Set 205 to win, Head went in as a makeshift opener and plundered 123 from 83 balls, hitting boundaries to all parts of the ground as he hit the rope 16 times and cleared it on four occasions.

He was caught in the outfield trying to rush to victory, with Australia needing just 13 runs to win at 192-2. Marnus Labuschagne leveled the scores with a six and was unbeaten on 51 when Australia reached 205-2.

Australia extended its unbeaten run in home Ashes tests to 16, with 14 victories and two draws since losing the 2010-11 series.

Starc's stunning catch to dismiss Crawley for a pair of ducks in each innings was the highlight of a comparatively mild morning session on Saturday.

Travis Head PHOTO: PTI

Starc was fully into his follow-through after delivering a ball at around 140 kph (87 mph) and had the athletic ability to lunge to his left and take the catch at full stretch just above ground level to remove Crawley. He was awarded player of the match. The second Test in the five-match series starts December 4 at the Gabba in Brisbane

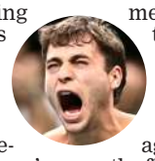
Australia 132 and 205 for 2 (Head 123, Labuschagne 51*, Carse 2-44) beat England 172 and 164 (Atkinson 37, Boland 4-33, Starc 3-55) by eight wickets. —*PTI*

TEST MATCHES ENDING IN 2 DAYS

- Australia vs. England (Perth, Nov 2025): The first Test of the current Ashes series concluded in two days
- India vs. South Africa (Cape Town, Jan 2024): This match was the shortest completed Test ever in terms of balls bowled (642 balls)
- India vs. England (Ahmedabad, Feb 2021): A pink-ball Test that finished within two days on a turning pitch
- India vs. Afghanistan (Bengaluru, 2018): Afghanistan's debut Test match also ended in two days

ITALY REACHES DAVIS CUP FINAL

ROME, 22 NOV



Flavio Cobolli said sealing Italy's place in the Davis Cup final was "one of the best days of my life" after he saved seven match points to win a dramatic 32-point tie-break against Belgium's Zizou Bergs. Australia were the last to achieve the feat, when the likes of Mark and Hewitt dominated the tournament. They did so three times between 1999 and 2001, but they only managed to win the tournament two of those times. If Italy win the final again, they will become the first nation to do the three-peat since the United States between 1969 and 1971. —*PTI*

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: India takes on Korea in opener

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

Five-time champion and the second-most successful team in the tournament, India will have to be on its guard when it takes on Korea in their opening match of the 31st edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament in Ipoh on Sunday.

The prestigious invitational tournament will be held here from November 23 to 30.This will be India's first appearance in the tournament since 2019, when it finished runner-up.This year's edition will feature India, Belgium, Canada, Korea, New Zealand and host Malaysia, competing in a round-robin format, with the top two teams qualifying for the final.After Korea, India, led by Sanjay, will then face Belgium on 24 November, Malaysia on November 26, New Zealand on 27 November, before concluding its league stage campaign against Canada on 29 November.With India building towards the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup and the 2026 Asian Games, this tournament provides a platform for competitive preparation while also testing new combinations. —*PTI*

Jeansgate: FIDE relaxes dress code for Doha Rapid & Blitz

NEW DELHI, 22 NOV

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has announced a significantly relaxed dress code for next month's World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Doha, "allowing classic non-distressed jeans for both men and women", a year after the 'jeansgate' storm involving Magnus Carlsen at the same event.The updated regulations from the world chess governing body now "allow" dark business-casual trousers, including classic, non-distressed jeans in blue, black, or grey for both men and women, for the Doha event from 25 to 30 December. —*PTI*

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea ease past Burnley to go second in the table

LONDON, 22 NOV

Pedro Neto and Enzo Fernandez delivered a comfortable 2-0 win at Burnley to lift Chelsea to second in the Premier League on Saturday.

The opener came when Neto met Jamie Gittens' cross at the far post, while Fernandez sealed victory with a late run into the box after a counter-attack involving Neto and substitute Marc Guiu.

The Blues rarely moved out of second gear during the 90 minutes and were able to rest unused substitute Moises Caicedo, with matches against Barcelona and Arsenal to come.

However, resting players looked a gamble early on as Burnley started brightly, with Jaidon Anthony having two early shots blocked and Loum Tchaouna forcing a save from Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez with a strike from the edge of the box. Chelsea started slowly and had only tested Burnley keeper Martin Dubravka with a tame long-range effort from Trevoh Chalobah.

Enzo Fernandez and Pedro Neto PHOTO: X/@CHELSEAFC

But after Neto's header put them ahead, they took control, withdrawing captain Reece James at half-time yet growing increasingly dominant.

Neto struck a post soon after the interval, while substitute Malo Gusto saw a shot saved amid further attempts from Joao Pedro, Gittens, Fernandez and Marc Cucurella.

Chelsea's second-half display was largely about game management as they gave little away and dominated possession, finishing with about 60%. In-form striker Zian Flemming fired Burnley's only second-half chance over, and substitutes Lyle Foster and Armando Broja could not inspire a comeback.

After Chelsea made several changes of their own, young striker Guiu provided Fernandez with a cutback to turn home the second goal. Burnley remain 17th in the table and could drop into the relegation zone later on Saturday. —*PTI*

NZ sweep WIODI series with a convincing win

HAMILTON, 22 NOV

Mark Chapman made a gritty half-century to guide New Zealand to a four-wicket win over the West Indies in the third one-day international Saturday and a 3-0 series sweep.

Chapman reached his fourth ODI half-century from 58 balls and went on to score 64 in a 75-run fifth-wicket partnership with Michael Bracewell as New Zealand chased down the West Indies' 161 with 19.3 overs remaining.

New Zealand held a 2-0 lead after winning the first match by seven runs and the second by five wickets.

The West Indies chose to bat first after winning the toss but managed only 161 on a pitch at Seddon Park, which had more menace than its relatively placid appearance suggested.

First through Matt Henry with the new ball, then with effective use of the short ball and later with Mitch Santner's spin, New Zealand dismissed the tourists in 36.2 overs.

"It was quite a slow surface, so it probably looked a bit different to how you want to go about your work here at Seddon Park," Henry said. "It's a small ground all round, so you want to be taking wickets throughout to put teams under pressure.

"Thankfully, we could keep doing that with some bowling from the whole team."

New Zealand faced real difficulties in its chase, stumbling to 32-3 after Will Young was brilliantly caught by Khary Pierre in the 11th over in one of the highlights of the match. Pierre dived full length at short cover to pick off Young's drive off Matthew Forde in mid air.

New Zealand 162 for 6 (Chapman 64, Bracewell 40*, Seales 2-35, Forde 2-46) beat West Indies 161 (Chase 38, Henry 4-43, Duffy 2-27, Santner 2-27) by four wickets. —*PTI*

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Shami, Akash Deep in Bengal's squad

KOLKATA, 22 NOV

Out-of-favour India pacer Mohammed Shami, who picked 20 wickets in four matches in the first phase of the Ranji Trophy, has been included in Bengal's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy squad on Saturday.

The fit-again Shami, having recovered from his leg injury, has played four of Bengal's five matches in the Ranji Trophy this season.

His 15 wickets in the first two matches were key to Bengal's two back-to-back wins over Uttarakhand and Gujarat at the start of the season, as they lead the group C standings.

Along with another Indian pacer, Akash Deep, in Bengal's 17-member squad to be captained by Abhimanyu Easwaran.

Thakur to lead Mumbai; Suryakumar, Sarfaraz and Dube included

Shardul Thakur will lead Mumbai in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy with the 17-member squad also featuring India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Sarfaraz Khan and Shivam Dube.

Mumbai are the defending champion of the competition, having won it the previous year under Shreyas Iyer, who is not a part of the current squad, which also features Ajinkya Rahane. The squad features Angkrish Raghuvanshi as a wicketkeeper along with Hardik Tamore, while it also has India seamer Tushar Deshpande and Tanush Kotian. Siddhesh Lad, who has scored 530 runs in five matches with three centuries and a fifty so far in the first leg of the Ranji Trophy this season, has also been named.—*PTI*

Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur and Sarfaraz Khan PHOTO: PTI